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Weekend

Magazine



# THE INDEPENDENT

2,942

SATURDAY 23 MARCH 1996 40p (IR 45p)

## Should ours be the only children in the world to eat British beef?

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Science Correspondent

The 13 scientists on the independent expert advisory committee on BSE and CJD meet today at 11am to consider one of the most urgent questions ever to face the nation: is it safe for our children to eat beef?

Nobody knows for certain if we are on the brink of an epidemic of CJD that could kill 500,000 people, or a containable problem that might claim a few score lives a year.

The one devastating fact we do know about mad cow disease is that the top scientists in the field have reversed their position about its link with human illness.

With British beef now banned world-wide, and the Consumers Association advising against eating it, we wait for the committee to advise ministers on two crucial issues. Should parents ban their children from eating beef? And why might it be safe for adults to eat it but not children?

Yesterday, Professor John Pattison, chairman of the committee, caused further confusion by saying he would not feed beef to his three-month-old grandson who had never eaten meat, but he would continue to give

it to his nine-month-old granddaughter.

There are six further key questions about BSE and its risks that have not been answered—and never posed in public by ministers or their advisers. If they are not on Professor Pattison's agenda this morning, they should be.

1) Is a single bite of a BSE-infected meal enough to pass on the disease, or does it require repeated exposure over a longer period?

2) Are calf and beef liver and kidney—which are not removed from carcasses—absolutely safe to eat?

3) Why should beef be dangerous now, given the safety measures that have been taken in the past six years? But if it is safe, why does the Government keep tightening its measures?

4) As experiments have shown that BSE can be passed to pigs, are vets and farmers being told to monitor pigs on farms for any signs of the disease?

5) Can the disease be passed to chickens? If not, why did SEAC this week ban the use of albumin from meat for feed for all farm animals?

6) When will we know if the danger of an epidemic is over?

### BSE shockwaves reverberate around the world

The Consumers' Association yesterday told British shoppers to avoid eating beef products.

The British beef trade, worth £4bn a year with an export trade of £520m, suffered a severe blow when South Africa, Singapore and most of the European Union countries announced plans to ban British beef.

Schools around Britain continued to strike beef off dinner menus. Lancashire County Council took beef from all secondary school menus. The council had banned it from primary schools three months ago. In Broadmoor prison, beef was also taken off the menu.

The only person not overly alarmed by the British BSE crisis yesterday was Ireland's Prime Minister, John Bruton, who predicted a massive increase in the sales of Irish beef.

Shops and supermarkets were also quick to respond to the crisis about the apparent link between BSE and CJD. Somerfield supermarkets, a 625-store chain, said it

was refunding any customers who returned beef products. The Co-Op, for the first time in its 150-year history, said that it was considering using beef from abroad.

Insurance companies, such as Pegasus Assurance and Skandia Life, said that they intended to include cover for CJD.

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Reports, pages 2,3; Leading article and letters, page 18

There are questions, too, about the actions—or lack of them—that the Government took in the 1980s.

When BSE was first identified in 1986, a committee led by Professor Sir Richard Southwood was set up to consider the risks posed by the disease and what measures should be taken to stop it.

Professor Southwood told the Independent yesterday, "In

defence of our committee, we met on 20 June 1988 and I wrote the next day that certain steps should be carried out right away. But we did say that it would be a decade or so before we saw anything that would tell us whether the disease had passed to humans. We were wrong in thinking it wouldn't get across the species boundary. But what should we have done? Ordered the culling of all the cat-

tle in Britain? The fact is that the regulations that were brought in to stop cattle remains being fed back to cattle would have been effective. But some farmers, as we now know, held on to their old, contaminated feeds for at least a year. It's not just us. Society as a whole has to take responsibility for this. But of course, hindsight is a wonderful thing."

Yet the Government could

have taken urgent action at that time which could have eased the problems we are now experiencing. Experts in the field point to two key questions:

1) Why did the Government not begin a crash programme to develop a test which would diagnose BSE in live cattle before they showed symptoms of the disease?

2) Why was an experiment not begun immediately to see whether BSE could be passed orally to primates such as chimpanzees—an experiment which would have told us the level of risk we would now be facing?

Dr Anne Maddocks, a member of the independent pressure group the Spongiform Encephalopathy Research Committee, says that the second question is now moot: "There's no point doing the primate experiment now," she said yesterday. "It's us. We are the experiment."

The meeting of the 13 scientists, at the Civil Service College, in Sunningdale, Berkshire, is expected to go on today and tomorrow.

Members who have spoken to the Independent are almost fearful of the responsibility before them. "I almost just want to crawl into a hole," one said this week. "I look at the paper

and think, My God, we've killed off a £500m export industry. You can't imagine what it's like. But we have to make these decisions, and we will." Another said "The Government is in very deep water over this and they are only too glad to pass the responsibility for making decisions over to us. And then they simultaneously want the answer, and only the right answer."

It is understandable that the Government does not want to scaremonger.

But equally it owes us an explanation after protecting the interests of the meat industry for so long. First, it must lay bare everything it knows—particularly evaluations of all the risks posed by eating beef and its products. Not just those we face now but those it kept to itself in the past.

Secondly, it must divest itself of its overly cosy relationship with the meat industry. Anyone who thinks that this relationship is valuable and should be retained should ask the question: who changed the regulations in slaughterhouses which meant that the remains of BSE-infected cattle could be fed back to cows, thus prolonging the agony we all now face?

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on the Nineties  
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After Dunblane: Children take first step back to normality as Howard backs crackdown on sex offenders

### Tears as pupils return to school

Some ran and skipped through the main gates, some greeted friends, but there were others who kept close to their anxious parents. It was no ordinary day for the children of Dunblane as they returned yesterday to their primary school for the first time since the massacre nine days ago which left 16 children, their teacher and their killer dead.

Many parents paused at the school gates to hug their children and speak some private words of encouragement. As they left, some of the adults had tears in their eyes when they emerged from the school after taking in their children.

Educational psychologists and counsellors were on hand to support the 700 children on their first fateful steps to normality. School began as usual at 9am but it was for half a day only, with no assembly, no playtime breaks, and ending at noon. The gym where the massacre happened was sealed and its windows boarded up.

As the children began to gather inside the building one of their injured classmates, Matthew Birnie, aged 5, was allowed home from hospital. And the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr George Carey speaking in London warned there were limits to forgiveness as he accused the Dunblane killer, Thomas Hamilton, of committing a "heinous" crime. Dr Carey spoke of the Bible's "severe judgement" on child-killers.

At the school gates, Ron Taylor, the headteacher, reflected on the first day back: "As you can imagine, this has been a long dark week full of tears... However, the evil that came last week has gone."

"We have really one priority now—to ensure our school becomes a happy place of learning once again."



Take care: A mother kisses her daughter at the gate of Dunblane primary school as pupils return to their classes for the first time since last week's tragedy. Photograph: Reuter

### Police plan register of paedophiles

JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

Convicted paedophiles are to be listed on a national register and will be forced to inform the police when they move home, under proposals being considered by the Government.

The proposed measures, announced yesterday by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, are expected to include a ban on paedophiles working with youngsters as part of a clampdown on sex offenders.

They will be outlined in a forthcoming consultation paper and could be included in a Crime Bill in the autumn. Mr Howard is known to be in favour of tougher restrictions on sex offenders.

The police have been urging the Government to set up a new system to monitor abusers more closely after a series of cases involving convicted paedophiles who had changed address and secretly started molesting youngsters. They have also been given council houses next to schools and found employment working with children. The police argue that if they were kept informed of the whereabouts of sex offenders they could prevent many offences.

A national register would probably be controlled by the police and held on a central computer, but local authorities would be allowed supervised access. At present the National Criminal Intelligence Service holds a list of about 4,500 convicted or suspected paedophiles in Britain. In 1994 there were 274 people convicted or cautioned for gross indecency with a child, although this does not include child rape. In the same year 109 people were found guilty of unlawful sex with a girl

aged under 13.

The proposals are expected to include the introduction of two new sentences which would force convicted child molesters to tell the police if they changed address—a "residency order"—and would stop them working with children—a "child protection order". If offenders broke the orders they could be jailed.

Mr Howard, addressing the National Probation Conference in Coventry, yesterday said: "The Government believe there is a strong case for strengthening the arrangements for supervising convicted sex offenders following their release from custody. Protecting the public is the aim which underpins the Government's entire criminal justice policy."

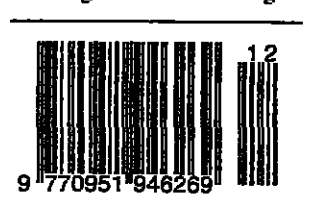
The police argue that the changes could help to prevent murders of children such as Rosie Palmer, aged three, in Hartlepool, Cleveland, who was killed in July 1994 by a man living a few doors away, who had been involved in previous incidents of child molestation which were not reported. Detectives believe this information would have helped the police identify the man more quickly as a suspect.

Chief Superintendent Brian MacKenzie, President of the Police Superintendents' Association, added: "These changes may infringe some civil liberties, but we believe the rights of children should come before convicted paedophiles."

Mary Honeyball, general secretary of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, added: "A register could give some added protection given that sex offenders are extremely prolific in their offending and the impact on their victims is the most abhorrent."

### WEATHER

There will be sunshine in most areas after a damp and drizzly morning. Page 2



"How could anyone leave poor Gypsy to suffer like this?"



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Claire Chapman Head Girl.  
ILPH Rest & Rehabilitation Centre, Norfolk.

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## news


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The BSE risk: Families are advised to change their eating habits as countries across the world reject British produce

## Watchdog says: Don't eat beef products

JAMES CUSICK

The public were yesterday urged to stop eating beef by the highly-respected watchdog organisation the Consumer Association. The group, amid yesterday's global warnings against British beef, said it had "no choice" but to issue the warning to avoid any risk to the public from catching the human form of mad cow disease.

As sales of poultry, pork and fish soared, the association said: "There is a currently an unquantifiable risk in eating beef." It urged that the government should make more information available to the public "as a matter of extreme urgency". Following the warning, the Meat and Livestock Commission, the beef's industry representative group, admitted for the first time that cows infected with BSE could have entered the food chain. In its first published assessment of the risk to humans, the MLC said the risk of exposure to infected food was "one in 1.2m". But it said on that basis that between 1986 and 1989 fewer than 50 people might have been exposed to infected food.

Although the impact of the World Health Organisation's plans for an unprecedented emergency meeting will have a serious impact on Britain's global trade, the announcement at home by the Co-op that it is considering buying beef from abroad for the first time in its 150-year history created further panic among retailers.

The Co-op, which has 3,000 stores, said it will be looking for alternatives. "There is an opportunity to import beef from abroad from Australia, New Zealand and South America," said the company. The firm said the Government had failed to

### IN THE STORES

give firm guidelines with respect to the consumption of beef. Tesco said that its beef was sourced from 18 different suppliers, 11 from the UK and the remainder from the Irish Republic. Country of origin was clearly marked on all its products.

No decision had yet been taken to buy beef from elsewhere. Sainsbury's said that all of the beef in its stores came from the UK and the Irish Republic but "all of our buying policies are under review". The Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said people were moving over to Irish beef following the new BSE health scare in Britain.

Throughout yesterday cattle sales again plummeted at markets throughout the country. Auctioneers at Ruthin, North Wales, described prices as "disastrous", with only 34 beasts offered for sale compared with about 200 on an average day.

At Derby and Ross-on-Wye, prices fell by up to £140 per animal. Carlisle, the biggest market in the country, saw prices £90 down on last year.

A Lincolnshire slaughterhouse is to be the first in Britain to be prosecuted under anti-BSE regulations designed to prevent infected bovine offal getting into the food chain.

The prosecution follows the alleged discovery of unmarked bovine offal at a processing plant producing animal feed. A horse slaughterer, Neil Richard Pawson, trading as H Pawson and Son at Station Road, Donington on Bain, Lincolnshire, is to stand trial at Louth magistrates' court on 13 May. He faces charges related to the non-staining of specified bovine offal removed from cattle carcasses.



Carcasses at the Anglo-Dutch Meat Processors, Eastbourne, which deals mainly in beef. Photograph: Philip Meech

## From Austria to New Zealand the world bans British meat

KATHERINE BUTLER  
Brussels

The world turned its back on British beef yesterday as countries from Austria to New Zealand announced a ban on importing beef from Britain. South Africa, Singapore and New Zealand suspended imports, following the lead of most of the EU countries.

The prospect of a Brussels-imposed ban looked more likely last night after the European Commission endorsed the decision of 10 EU member-states to close their borders to meat and live-cattle exports from Britain. Germany, Italy and Austria joined France, Belgium, Portugal, Finland, Greece, Sweden and the Netherlands in unilateral bans. Brushing aside claims that it was

### EXPORTS

illegal to ban trade with Britain, the Commission said governments could invoke the EU treaty to keep out disease. "Member-states have the legal right to take safeguard action either on human animal or even plant health grounds if they feel there is a threat," said a spokesman. Suspension of trade is, however, temporary pending a decision on what joint EU measures should follow.

Banning British beef was furthermore "completely understandable" in light of Britain's admission that 10 victims of CJD may have contracted the fatal brain condition through eating beef.

"This goes beyond a question of what you can or can't do in legal terms. Clearly we are confronted with a serious public health problem, the spokesman added.

The Commission will only de-

cide what action must be taken to allay public concerns after it receives the advice of veterinary officers representing the 15 member-states scheduled to meet in Brussels on Monday. But independent scientific advisers to the Commission who gathered yesterday to review the latest evidence were expected to endorse the British findings pointing to a probable link between beef and CJD.

It was not clear last night to what extent an EU ban on British beef exports would affect meat on sale in British supermarkets or butcher shops. Butcher and slaughterhouse regulations or other EU curbs already in place to minimise the BSE risk clearly apply in Britain as well as elsewhere. It is unlikely, however, that the Commission could either legally or politically direct Britain to withdraw beef from British shops on protection grounds.

Commission officials were also reluctant to be drawn on whether Brussels would order Britain to destroy its entire herd. The Commission, which manages agricultural policy for the 15 states, has in the past operated an EU-funded slaughter policy to contain outbreaks of classical swine fever in Germany and Belgium.

But there are neither funds available to finance the destruction of 11 million cattle in Britain nor a clear opinion that it would be the best option. One source suggested the Commission would want much more than circumstantial evidence of a link between BSE and CJD before ordering a slaughter-out policy.

With the EU facing an unprecedented crisis on the overall beef market, the focus was turning yesterday to how to deal with a glut of unwanted meat and the prospect of prices in free-fall.

## Top scientists who advise the government

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Science Correspondent

The members of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) start meeting today to decide on advice to parents on whether children should eat beef.

It comprises: Professor John Pattison, chairman: professor of medical microbiology and Dean of University College, London Medical School. Appointed to the committee last February, and to the chairmanship late last year on the retirement of David Tyrrell, head of the now-defunct Common Cold Unit. With 30 years' experience in the field of clinical pathology, Pattison is widely respected in his field.

Dr Rob Will, vice-chairman: consultant neurologist and head of the National CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh. His team first noticed the unusual cases of the disease which led to last week's bombshell announcement.

Professor John Collinge, head of the Prion Diseases Group at St Mary's College Hospital, London. A clinical neurologist whose research group is active in research into BSE and other similar diseases, mainly using transgenic mice. Paper published in the scientific journal *Nature* in late December 1995 suggested that BSE could not cause CJD, based on preliminary results with genetically-engineered mice with human genes. The experiments are continuing.

Professor Ingrid Allen, professor of Neuropathology, Queen's University of Belfast. Dr Mike Palmer, a consultant in Communicable Disease Control, City of Manchester. Joined SEAC in December 1995.

Professor Peter Smith, an epidemiologist from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Joined SEAC in January 1996.

His wide experience in diseases of the central nervous system, particularly multiple sclerosis. Professor Fred Brown, formerly deputy director of the now-defunct National Virus Research Institute, and now visiting scientist at the US Department of Agriculture's Plum Island Animal Disease Centre in New York.

Dr William Hesketh, veterinary epidemiologist, US Department of Agriculture.

Dr Richard Kimberlin, independent consultant on vaccine-related diseases. Has spent the past eight years on risk assessment of the dangers posed by BSE to humans.

David Pepper, private veterinary surgeon.

Dr William Watson, former director of the Central Veterinary Laboratory.

Professor Jeffrey Almond, a virologist and professor of microbiology at the University of Reading. His own laboratory has been engaged in BSE research for the past five years. Joined SEAC December 1995.

Ray Bradley, a veterinary pathologist and chairman of the BSE sub-group of the BC's scientific veterinary committee. Regarded as a world expert on the disease. Joined SEAC in December 1995.

Dr Mike Palmer, a consultant in Communicable Disease Control, City of Manchester. Joined SEAC in December 1995.

Professor Peter Smith, an epidemiologist from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Joined SEAC in January 1996.

## Babies stay on beef

Professor John Pattison, head of SEAC, the independent advisory committee on mad cow disease, said yesterday that he would not give beef to his three-month-old grandson who had never eaten meat, but his nine-month-old granddaughter would continue eating beef, writes Chris Blackhurst.

Speaking on Radio 4's *Farming Today* programme, Professor Pattison said he had a grandson, aged 3 months, who was yet to eat beef.

"My daughter and son-in-law are simply going to wait another six or 12 months to see what happens before introducing him to beef," he said.

As for his granddaughter, "Our son and daughter-in-law have actually given our granddaughter some beef. They actually prepare the babies' meals from the same material that they use for their own meals." The professor was criticised by Labour for spreading further confusion.

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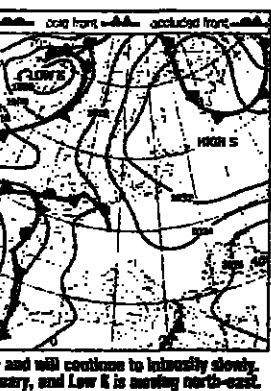
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### Weather forecast

#### NOON FORECAST



**TODAY'S FORECAST:** Central and southern England will be cloudy but with light rain and the chance of a shower. Southern Scotland and N. Ireland will be cloudy with rain, but just a light shower in the north. Heavy rain, but with light showers, will be seen in the north and west. Heavy rain, but with light showers, will be seen in the north and west. Heavy rain, but with light showers, will be seen in the north and west.

#### WORLD WEATHER

Country	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Australia	25-30	10-15	Partly
Canada	10-15	10-15	Partly
France	15-20	10-15	Partly
Germany	15-20	10-15	Partly
Italy	15-20	10-15	Partly
Japan	15-20	10-15	Partly
USA	15-20	10-15	Partly

Country	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Australia	25-30	10-15	Partly
Canada	10-15	10-15	Partly
France	15-20	10-15	Partly
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Japan	15-20	10-15	Partly
USA	15-20	10-15	Partly

Country	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Australia	25-30	10-15	Partly
Canada	10-15	10-15	Partly
France	15-20	10-15	Partly
Germany	15-20	10-15	Partly
Italy	15-20	10-15	Partly
Japan	15-20	10-15	Partly
USA	15-20	10-15	Partly

#### LIGHTING-UP TIMES

Location	Lighting-up	Darkening
London	6:55 pm	5:50 am
Edinburgh	7:00 pm	6:00 am
Manchester	6:55 pm	6:00 am
Newcastle	6:55 pm	6:00 am
Belfast	6:55 pm	6:00 am

#### AIR QUALITY

Location	Index	Category
London	1.0	Good
Edinburgh	1.0	Good
Manchester	1.0	Good
Newcastle	1.0	Good
Belfast	1.0	Good

#### HIGH TIDES

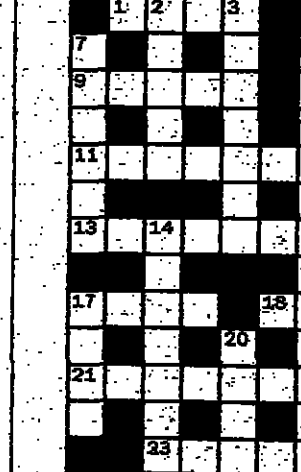
Location	High Tide	Low Tide
London	4:00 am	4:00 pm
Edinburgh	4:00 am	4:00 pm
Manchester	4:00 am	4:00 pm
Newcastle	4:00 am	4:00 pm
Belfast	4:00 am	4:00 pm

#### Out and about with AA Roadwatch

Location	Out	Back
London	4:00 am	4:00 pm
Edinburgh	4:00 am	4:00 pm
Manchester	4:00 am	4:00 pm
Newcastle	4:00 am	4:00 pm
Belfast	4:00 am	4:00 pm

### concise crossword

No. 2542 Sunday 23 March By PH



#### ACROSS

- Really bad (4)
- Clan (5)
- Arm of the sea (5)
- Pragmatic person (7)
- Concuring (8)
- Energy (4)
- Part of anatomy, for instance (7-6)
- Ogle (4)
- Angry speech (8)
- Of stars (7)
- Get up (5)
- Corset (5)
- Exam (4)

#### DOWN

- Loafer (5)
- Beg (7)
- The T in T Rex (13)
- Khomeini's country (4)
- Issue (7)
- Angry speech (6)
- Male deer (4)
- Soccer teams (7)
- Unyielding (7)
- Was filled (6)
- Drunkard (4)
- Coarsely ground grain (5)
- Urgent request (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

Across: 1 Turner, 4 Sighed (Turn aside), 7 Leftmost, 9 Glad, 10 Nark, 11 Hence, 13 Drove, 14 Harden, 15 Piers, 17 Really, 19 Taboo, 20 Mone, 22 Bar, 23 Scripture, 24 Reform, 25 Nephew.

Down: 1 Turbid, 2 Neat, 3 Rather, 4 Scorch, 5 Gain, 6 Darken, 7 Laborious, 8 Vandalise, 11 Heart, 12 Eager, 15 Pamper, 16 Sadism, 17 Rotten, 18 Yarrow, 21 Echo, 22 Trap.

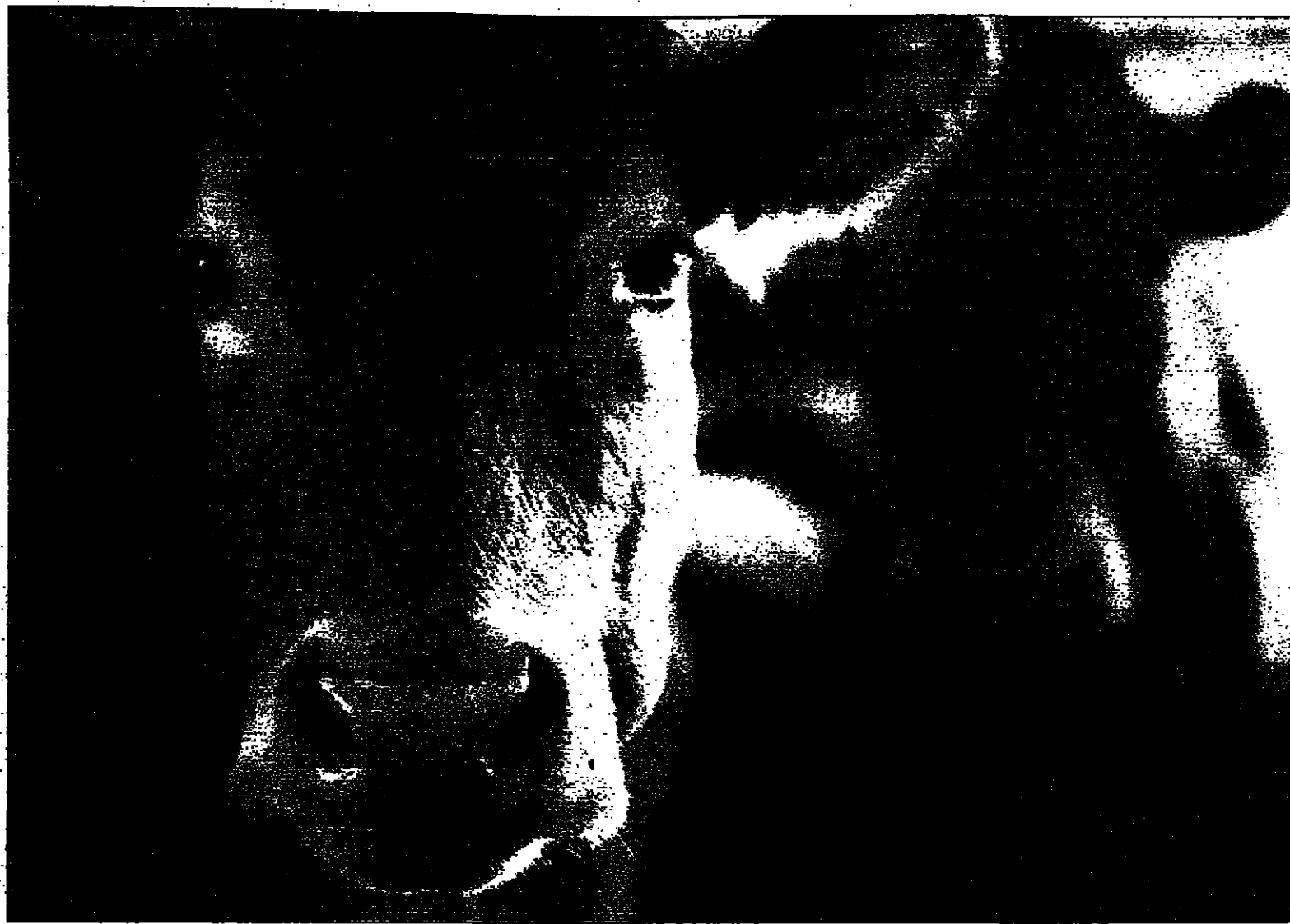
Notes

UPON RELEASE



The BSE risk: Businesses to pay the price as consumers change eating habits

# Economy feels the strain



Cash cow: The crisis in the beef industry could severely limit the Government's ability to deliver tax cuts

Photograph: Brian Harris

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

The beef crisis could be bad for our wallets as well as our health, if the worst fears about the need to slaughter cattle are borne out. It has already hit the pound, which fell by half a penny against the German mark yesterday.

City of London experts warned yesterday that in the most extreme scenario, government borrowing would be billions of pounds higher, tens of thousands of meat industry workers could be unemployed, inflation would rise and growth would decline.

The damage to public sector finances could easily dash hopes

of tax cuts in the next Budget and beyond.

Jan Shepherdson at City firm HSBC Markets said the sharp fall in beef prices would initially reduce retail prices, but in the longer run a reduced UK supply of beef and dairy products would raise imports and increase inflation. At the outside, if the entire herd were slaughtered, inflation could be 1.5 per cent higher than its current 2.9 per cent.

The loss of British supplies would also damage the balance of trade. Beef exports amount to just over £500m a year, but Britons spend £3.5bn on home produced beef, some

of which will switch to imported meat. If dairy exports were also affected, the trade deficit might be as much as £7bn a year worse.

Although consumers will switch to alternatives such as pork and poultry, Mr Shepherdson argued that the crisis could reduce GDP by more than 1 per cent in a full year.

Other economists thought the effects on the economy would not be this big, as the loss of the entire herd seems unlikely. However, there could be a severe impact in meat-producing regions such as East Anglia and Scotland.

Many predicted the crisis would have dire consequences for the Government's finances.

The immediate cost would be compensation for farmers, with preliminary estimates of the total cost of slaughtering all 11m cattle put at £7bn to £20bn. The EU will pick up some of the eventual bill for farm compensation, but the amount would have to be negotiated by the Government.

Additional compensation claims from the rest of the meat and meat processing industry could also be expected. A Treasury spokesman said any estimates of the cost would be hypothetical, as the extent of compensation if meat products had to be withdrawn from the shelves would be a matter for debate.

The costs of additional

healthcare for the unknown future number of victims of CJD enter the equation too, although insurers said yesterday that private medical insurance policies covered the disease.

A further burden on the public purse will be unemployment benefit for those who lose their jobs in the beef industry. It currently employs about 40,000 people, including 5,500 in slaughterhouses.

Simon Briscoe, an expert on government finances at City bank Nikko Europe said: "There is a small risk the Government will face an enormous cost of billions of pounds and a very good chance that the cost will run into hundreds of millions."

## Next week in THE INDEPENDENT

From Monday, Section Two will have a completely new look, with more pages, new features, a daily radio column and an expanded listings section providing Britain's most comprehensive daily guide to going out.

### on Monday

A new section focusing on Family Life, beginning with an investigation into how children's television is threatening the family unit. In the centre pages, each week we challenge the personalities and institutions that have become icons of Nineties life. On Monday, we ask: Do we need Start the Week? Plus: In the second part of our series on the making of the modern girl, we examine teenage attitudes to sex, relationships and marriage.

### on Tuesday

A 24-page section with all the action from a big weekend of sport. Plus: Part one of a major investigation into the crisis afflicting English cricket. Where does our summer game go from here? And the Monday interview with Alan Shearer, the striker who doesn't mind not scoring goals for England.

### on Wednesday

Part three of the making of the modern girl: how the Nineties generation gets what it wants. Plus: Health - a new treatment for chronic fatigue. Also on Tuesday, fashion, architecture, visual arts and media. Our new back pages section introduces a weekly feature on the history of popular culture.

### on Thursday

Theatre, midweek travel section, your money, finance and law. Plus - Final part of the making of the modern girl: what the future holds for the teenager of the Nineties. In our back pages, Martin Newell, Britain's leading rock poet, and Neil Kerber, one of the country's funniest cartoonists, present their views of the modern world.

### on Friday

All our regular features, including Dilemmas, John Walsh's column, plus film, education and graduate plus. In the back pages, William Hartston's history of the world in 104½ inches

### on Saturday

24Seven - a brand new 20-page pull-out-and-keep entertainment and listings section. Including a complete day-by-day planner for the week ahead, plus seven-day TV, radio and satellite listings, ticket offers and informed comment on the week's highlights

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## Whistleblowers say they are vindicated

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Science Correspondent

Three scientists have been claiming for years that the threat posed to humans by mad cow disease, or BSE, is far greater than the Government has admitted. Stephen Dealler, Richard Lacey and Harash Narang are independent of each other, but their work has had a common theme: an epidemic of CJD is on the way because of BSE.

Dr Dealler, a senior registrar at Burnley General Hospital, has made a detailed study of the epidemiological risks to humans, assuming varying levels of infectivity from BSE-infected beef. In a wide-ranging study, he has also visited meat markets, auctions and abattoirs to find out at first hand whether farmers and slaughterhouse workers were really following the Government's guidelines. He often found that they were not.

Richard Lacey, a microbiologist at the University of Leeds, has claimed since 1989 that BSE would pass on to humans, and that an epidemic was on the way. However, he was repeatedly dismissed as a scaremonger, even though he had been proven correct in previous years when he warned of the risks posed by salmonella. He is predicting that hundreds of thousands of people could develop CJD as a result of consuming BSE-infected foods.

But colleagues say that Professor Lacey was too ready to talk to the media when his research was incomplete. Scientists generally prefer to carry out their arguments through the pages of scientific journals rather than through newspapers and TV channels.

Dr Narang is also a microbiologist, but has alienated many other scientists by putting forward a theory for BSE - that it

is caused by a "slow virus" which takes decades to act - that conflicts with a number of peer-reviewed experiments. Based in Newcastle, he is now funded by a private businessman, having been fired from the Government's Public Health Laboratory Service in the 1980s.

He claims to have developed a urine test for both BSE and CJD which can diagnose the disease while the victim is still alive. He claims though that he has been the victim of a witch-hunt in which his car's tyres have been slashed and his house broken into.

However, other scientists point to what they see as inconsistencies in Dr Narang's work. One is that BSE has been linked to any case of CJD until 10 unusual deaths in humans, apparently from a new strain of the disease, which occurred in the past two years. This, they say, shows that Dr Narang's evidence for a link in 1990 cannot be valid.

## Avenues open for families to sue

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES  
Legal Affairs Editor

While the beef crisis has yet to spawn a stampede of victims rushing for their writs, there are potential avenues for claiming compensation for suffering and financial damage.

A Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease victim - even one who had consumed burgers in Elvis Presley-type proportions - would make little headway trying to sue the retailers of the foods. That is because of the difficulty in proving which of a multitude of butchers, burger bars and other foodstuffs passed on the fatal ingredient, perhaps five or six years ago.

A complaint against the suppliers of foodstuffs for cows might be a different matter. Farmers might also have possible claims.

During the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties, the largely self-regulated industry, the so-called "renderers", used sheep scurry to improve protein content of the foodstuffs.

According to Martyn Day, a personal injury lawyer specialising in "class" actions for multiple clients, a big question is whether the protein, often from old carcasses, was heated sufficiently to kill the disease.

A fresh wave of political difficulty for Tory ministers - or their successors - would come if and when people contemplated suing the Government for negligence. Much would depend on whether the small number of CJD cases hides an epidemic. A large number of claimants could give rise to a high-profile class action - and considerable sympathy from the public.

The more CJD cases that emerge, the greater will be the political pressure to pay compensation without putting claimants to proving their cases in court.

If that day ever came, Mr Day puts the size of individual claims in six figures. That would cover the horrendous suffering, loss of amenity and financial losses.

### COMPENSATION

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES  
Legal Affairs Editor

## Crisis sets Tories against friends in meat industry

CHRIS BLACKHURST  
Westminster Correspondent

The Government runs the risk of alienating some of its staunchest supporters over the handling of the beef crisis.

Ties between the Tory party and meat industry go much deeper than the traditional one of the gentleman farmer turned backbench shire loyalist.

The family still most closely identified with beef, the Vestys, has been a generous giver to the party. While it did not make a donation last year, Lord Vestey's company, Western United Investments, has given £621,000 in the recent past - making it one of the Tories' largest benefactors.

Hillsdown Holdings, one of UK's biggest meat processors and operator of 12 abattoirs, has an entrée to the highest levels. In 1992, John Gummer, then agriculture minister, was rebuffed by a committee of MPs

for having a £2,000 pond in the garden of his Suffolk home paid for by Hillsdown.

Barry Legg, the Conservative MP for Milton Keynes-South West, was its company secretary before going to Parliament; Sir John Nott, the former Cabinet minister, is its executive chairman and Paul Judge, until recently the Conservatives' director-general, sold them his food company, Premier Brands. Mr Judge was also head of Food From Britain, the government-backed bureau to promote British food overseas, prior to going to Smith Square to try and sort out the Tories' finances. He is now a ministerial special adviser.

Another large meat company, Samworth, based in Leicestershire, which makes pies and pasties, supports its local Conservative association and regularly gives £8,000 to the City and

Industrial Liaison Council, widely thought to be a Conservative-supporting organisation.

David Samworth, the company's chairman, is also a former chairman of the Meat and Livestock Commission, the industry lobbying group.

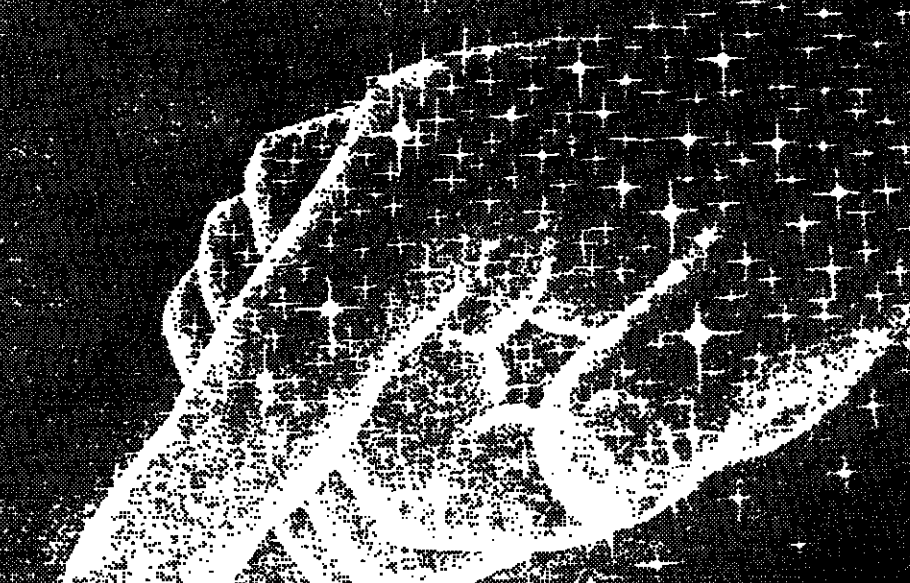
The MP hardest hit by the scare is likely to be Christopher Gill. Not only is he a farmer but his family firm F A Gill is a meat packer and processor.

Until recently, Simon Burns, the Tory MP for Chelmsford, listed McDonalds, the burger chain, as one of those companies to which he gave parliamentary advice. The company has been dropped from his entry in the 1995 MPs' register.

In all, 28 Conservatives list farming among their outside interests. At the most senior level, they include William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who owns shares in the family farming company, Waldegrave Farms.



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# INLA declares units ready for war

DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland correspondent

The small but ferocious Irish National Liberation Army yesterday served notice that it considers itself back at war, with all its units "placed on standby."

The threat is being taken seriously by the authorities, since the organisation has on many occasions demonstrated an ability to make violent come-backs

after periods of inactivity. Although much smaller than the IRA and almost certainly incapable of waging a sustained campaign at a high level, its capacity for launching occasional lethal attacks is not in question. It has in the past been responsible for a small number of incidents in Britain. Among the most notorious was the murder of a special constable in North Yorkshire in the early 1990s.

An INLA statement said: "We cannot look on idly as the British cynically draw out and fudge attempts at a negotiated settlement while the full oppressive apparatus of the state is employed against the nationalist working class. Neither can we allow our reluctance to be sucked into a cycle of violence to be misconstrued as a sign of weakness."

The statement said that as from midday yesterday, its units

had been placed on standby and would operate "from a position of defence and retaliation." The emphasis on defence is explained by the fact that the organisation is wracked by internal conflicts which have caused several recent deaths.

This means that a fair amount of its energies are likely to be occupied in feuding rather than attacks on the security forces or loyalist elements. Three people have died recently, the first of

whom was Gino Gallagher, one of the organisation's most notorious gunmen.

This led first to the retaliatory murder of a Belfast man in a County Donegal caravan site, and then the accidental killing of a nine-year-old girl. She was shot dead in north Belfast by men who were apparently trying to kill a relative.

The INLA was almost completely quiet during the 17-month IRA ceasefire, although

many members did not agree with the peace process. The IRA is assumed to have warned the smaller organisation to halt its violence.

But the ending of the IRA ceasefire and the tensions generated by the present feud, seem to have brought about yesterday's announcement. The section of the INLA which made the statement appears to be the larger part of the organisation. The strength of the

other dissident faction is not known.

The Sinn Féin annual conference, which takes place in Dublin this weekend, will have as its centrepiece a keynote speech by the party president, Gerry Adams. The BBC in Belfast yesterday quoted an IRA source describing John Major's election proposal as a "unacceptable" saying the scheme provided no dynamic for a resolution of the conflict.

## IN BRIEF

### Footballers for trial

Soccer stars Bruce Grobbelaar, 36, John Fashanu, 32, and Hans Segers, 34, were yesterday committed for trial by a magistrate at Eastleigh, Hampshire, to face match-fixing allegations along with Malaysian businessman Heng Lim, 30. The four are accused of conspiring to give and accept gifts of money to influence the outcome of football matches or as rewards for having so done.

### Action on dogs

Moves for tougher powers to crack down on dog fouling, imposing fines of up to £1,000, has cleared the Commons. The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Bill gained an unopposed third reading and goes to the Lords with Government backing.

### Labour poll boost

Labour is heading for a record win in the Staffordshire South East by-election on 11 April, according to an opinion poll dismissed by Conservatives. The Birmingham Evening Mail poll gives Labour, on 66 per cent, a 50-point lead over the Tories. The Liberal Democrats were on 13 per cent.

### Cathedral siege

Police surrounded the catholic cathedral in Northampton last night after a man, believed to be armed, took shelter there. A negotiating team was in place.

### Toothpaste bid blow

A bid to launch a mass legal action on behalf of children whose teeth were allegedly damaged by fluoride in toothpaste suffered a setback yesterday when a High Court judge refused campaigners legal aid.

## Paedophile's jail term 'to protect the unborn'

A judge jailed a sex molester for 27 years after telling him he wanted to protect Britain's children, including those not yet born. The sentence is one of the longest imposed for offences which do not carry a life term.

A charity worker, Raymond Hodgson, 43, carried out a catalogue of sex abuse on nine young girls. Police caught him after he had abused four children but he escaped by locking officers in his house.

He went on to sexually abuse another five children, after winning the trust of their parents as he travelled around Britain. He was caught when his photograph was shown on the BBC television programme *Crimewatch* and the station was inundated with calls.

Winchester Crown Court was shown a pornographic video Hodgson made in which he forced a six-year-old girl to perform sexual acts. Judge Martin Tucker QC told him: "Having seen in the video of the sort of things you were doing, it must be realised what a revolting series of offences these were."

"When you are eventually at liberty the overwhelming probability is you will try to do it again. I have got to protect children and unborn children."

"I am passing a sentence that will keep you inside until your sexual life is on the wane."

The court heard Hodgson re-offended when he was released from prison after a conviction for raping a 12-year-old girl.

The girls he targeted on his release were aged 6 to 13.

The court heard Hodgson befriended one of his employees who had young children. Once he won the family's trust he began abusing the girl. After befriending this girl he met other youngsters by "wheeling himself into the affections and trust of their parents."

One girl told police Hodgson pulled her into his bed, stripped and removed her pants.

While visiting friends in Gosport, Hampshire, Hodgson abused an eight-year-old girl after giving her a shandy. The girl woke in the middle of the night to find Hodgson touching her. She began crying and later told her sister. Police were alerted.

But when police went to arrest Hodgson he coned them into letting him say goodbye to his landlady, locking them in the house while he escaped. He then moved north to Morecombe under an assumed name where he again used his work with a charity to abuse another set of children.

Hodgson said he did not know why he had abused the children. "Ninety per cent of the time I am like any other in the street and then situations crop up and I lose control," he said.

Hodgson, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, admitted six counts of indecent assault, four of indecency with a child and five counts of taking indecent photographs, and one of unlawful escape.



Last post: Musician Karl Long at the Marines' School of Music which leaves its barracks in Deal, Kent, next week

Photograph: Edward Sykes

## Judge tells Labour to reconsider ballot

BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

A High Court judge yesterday ordered Tony Blair and the Labour Party's national executive to reconsider their refusal to re-run a controversial selection ballot at Swindon North.

Sir John Vinelott indicated that the decision of the Labour leadership had been based on

a misleading presentation of the facts by Peter Coleman, the party's director of development.

Last month the NEC voted by 14 votes to 9 to set up a sub-committee to appoint a Labour parliamentary candidate for the constituency rather than order a fresh vote.

The first ballot in September was won by Michael Wills,

a London-based television producer. However, the runner-up, Jim D'Avila, a Rover car factory convenor for the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, alleged that there had been irregularities.

The bitterness engendered by the dispute has been characterised as a battle between a London "lunatic" and a local working class lad, although the

party leadership insists that this is an oversimplification.

In his judgment, Sir John conceded he had no power to order the Labour Party to change a "political" decision and refused to grant an injunction to Mr D'Avila, who was backed by his union.

"The only fair course for Mr D'Avila and the local electorate is to ask the NEC to take a fresh look at this, free

from the accusations made by Mr Coleman, which were not fair to Mr D'Avila," the judge said.

The veteran Labour campaigner for the disabled, Alf Morris, last night said he was retiring at the next election. Mr Morris, MP for Wythenshawe, Manchester, who celebrates his 68th birthday today, has a majority of 11,996.

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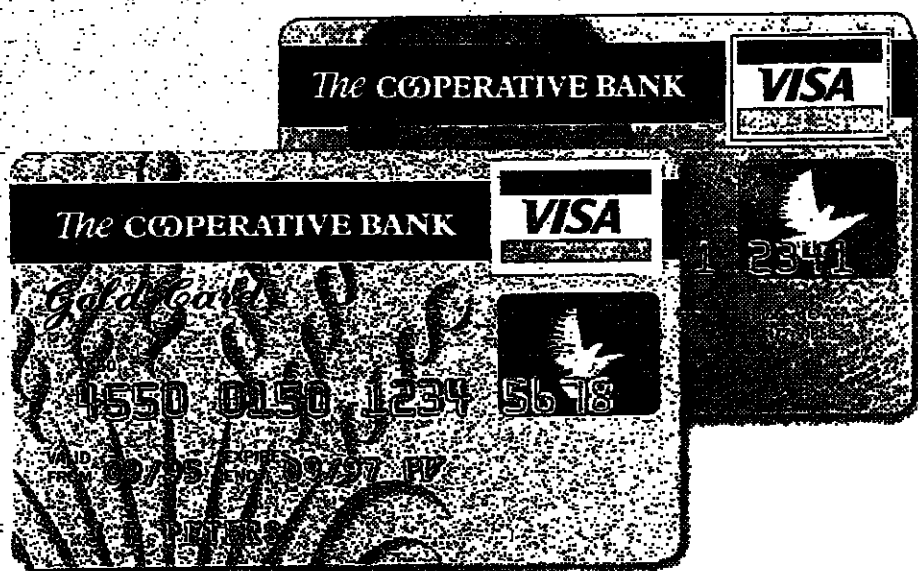
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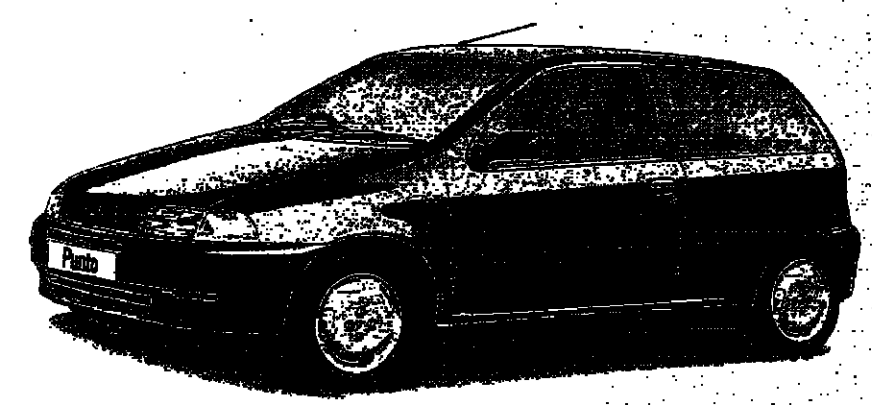
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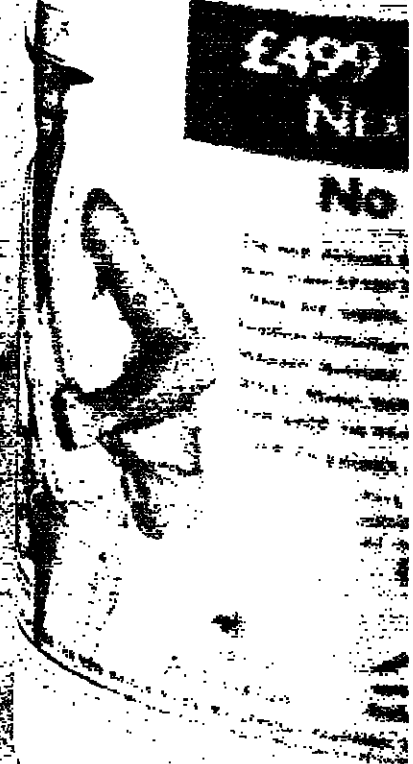
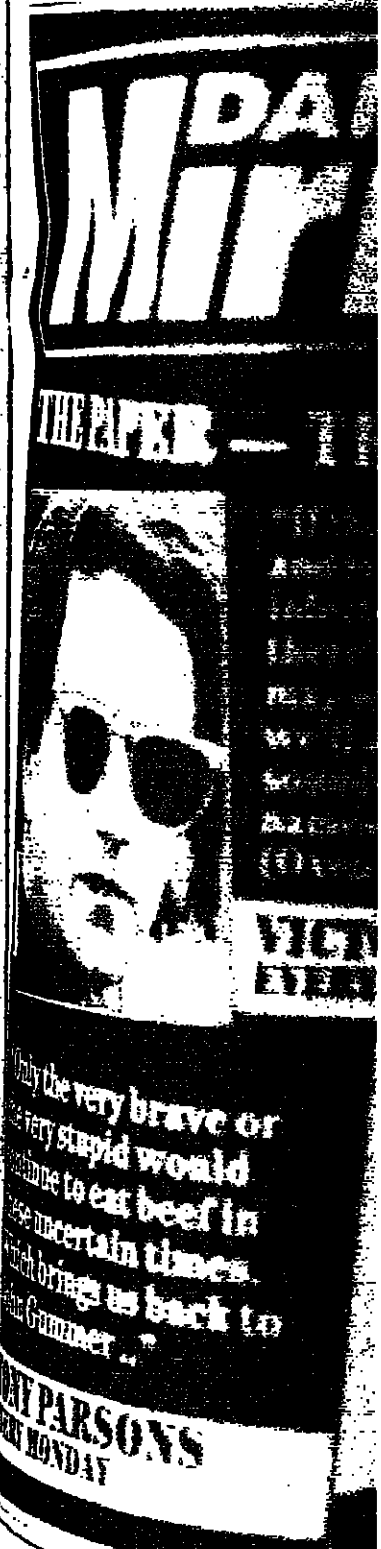
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# Doctor used patients as guinea pigs

A Merseyside doctor, who used his patients as guinea-pigs for drug trials without their knowledge or consent, was struck off the medical register yesterday.

Dr Geoffrey Fairhurst, 57, of Warrington, Cheshire, was told his name would be taken off the register after a three-day hearing at the General Medical Council in London found him guilty of using his patients as unwitting participants in trials of potentially dangerous drugs, for which he received payments of £15,000.

Dr Fairhurst had been accused of forging signatures of four patients at his surgery in St Helens, Merseyside, without their written or verbal consent.

He was said to have been caught out when a partner at the surgery, Dr David Edwards, "turned whistleblower" and reported him to the GMC.

After the decision, Miss Rosalind Foster, barrister to the GMC, told its professional conduct committee this was an example of "the bigger they come, the harder they fall".

Dr Fairhurst, a government advisor on health and a former JP, was also chairman of a medical ethics committee.

Patients had "an absolute right" to decide whether to participate in drug trials after being given full information. "You have found that four patients in three trials have been denied that right."

The doctor who had "blown the whistle" had been badly affected and had to accept "a great deal of vitriol". She said the

activities of Dr Fairhurst had "a grave potential for harm".

The hearing was told of bitter disagreement between the two doctors. Dr Fairhurst, had been paid sums of money by Glaxo Pharmaceutical and other drug companies between 1988 and 1995. Miss Foster said Dr Edwards decided to become a "whistleblower" because he was concerned for the safety and welfare of patients.

Dr Edwards claimed to have discovered dishonesty and the falsification of drug records for trials, mainly for treatments for heart complaints and high blood pressure.

Nicola Davies QC, for Fairhurst, said the case had a "deeply unhappy background".

Dr Edwards had a strong dislike for Dr Fairhurst. Further the GMC could not prove

forensically who had written the false signatures on consent forms. She was not suggesting the patients were lying, but it was significant they had all been in ill health and on a number of medications for many years.

The committee was later considering whether the doctor was guilty of serious professional misconduct.

Sir Donald Irvine, president of the GMC and chairman of the professional conduct committee, told Dr Fairhurst he had abused the trust of patients and undermined the medical profession. Sir Donald also encouraged other doctors to report malpractice after hearing how colleague Dr David Edwards and Dr Mia Shah blew the whistle on Dr Fairhurst.

Striking Dr Fairhurst from the register he said: "Trust lies at the heart of the practice of medicine. Patients must be able to trust doctors with their lives and well being. That trust must not be abused."

"Medical research is fundamental to the advance of medical practice and must always be conducted with scrupulous honesty and integrity. Where doctors intend to involve patients in clinical trials, it is essential that they first give those patients a proper explanation."

"Patients have a right to know what it involves and understand the implications for them before they are invited to take part. No trial should ever be carried out without the consent of the patient."



Geoffrey Fairhurst: Caught out by whistle-blower



Theatre of the absurd: Car boot sales offer 'the grotesque, the ridiculous, and the hilarious' Photograph: Geraint Lewis

## Boot sales trade on 'carnival spirit'

GLENDIA COOPER

Car boot sales are not just stalling in the rain and the mud but a video that you know will never work.

According to investigation, boot sales offer an anarchic, family, "carnavalesque" experience, are truly democratic and can earn a vendor £800 a weekend.

The report, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, reveals that an estimated 1 million people go to car boot sales every weekend, not just to pick up bargains, but because they enjoy the experience of haggling and the theatrical performances of the sellers.

The secret of the sales' success since the 1970s, is the different experience they offer from the conventions and predictability of the shopping mall.

"Much of the pleasure comes from pitting one's skills against others: from knowing that things might not be what they seem, that they almost certainly won't work... but there's just a chance that they might - and that would make something a 'real bargain'." Dr Louise Crewe, one of the authors of the report, said.

Although the opportunity to pick up bargains was one of the main draws, researchers found consumers were attracted by the spectacle and the ability of the

boot fair to capture "the absurd, the grotesque, the ridiculous and the downright hilarious".

Regular sellers perform. Some adopt the style of the market-stall holder, others act like hawkers or peddlers and others take on the conventions of the fairground - "roll up, roll up" - or the comedy act.

"For [amateur booters] the sense of carnivalesque comes from... the sheer absurdity that they can participate in a phenomenon which entails getting up at the crack of dawn on a Sunday morning, driving to a remote location... parking with hundreds of others before day-break, often in rain and mud," added Dr Crewe.

The report found boot sales attract people of every social class and age, scotching the notion that boot sales are the preserve of "recessionary Britain's underclass". Only 4 per cent were unemployed.

The average "booter" spends £7.96 at each sale and buys eight items. Sellers can make a profit of about £90 each and in some cases up to £800 a weekend.

Many local authorities were worried about boot sales flouting retail legislation - especially trading standards. Many perceived them as places where petty criminals flourished.

But Dr Crewe said: "Car boot sales are clearly here for the long run."

## Family's 'strain' over coma mum case

The husband of the Scottish right-to-die patient Janet Johnstone told last night of the "tremendous strain" his family has been under after hearing that five judges had delayed a decision on the case.

In the latest stage of a protracted court battle, Scotland's top judges agreed in opinions released yesterday that the Court of Session in Edinburgh had the power to make a recommendation that doctors at Law Hospital in Carlisle, Lanarkshire, should be allowed to withdraw artificial feeding from Mrs Johnstone, 53. But they said the civil courts could not give doctors immunity from prosecution.

The case - the first in Scotland - has now been referred back to a single judge, Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, who heard evidence earlier and asked for guidance from senior judges. His ruling is expected within the next few weeks.

Mrs Johnstone has been in a coma since taking a drug overdose in January 1992.

Her husband Peter, of Alanton, Lanarkshire, said: "Janet would have wanted to die in peace and with dignity. The decision is taking so long. The whole family has been put under a tremendous strain because of it. I feel so helpless."

The hospital had asked the Court of Session to rule that doctors may "lawfully discontinue" treatment of Mrs Johnstone. However, medical experts, supported by the woman's family, say she is in a persistent vegetative state with no prospect of recovery. However, they are afraid that they could be charged in the criminal courts if they withdraw feeding and let her die.

## DAILY Mirror

### THE PAPER — THE WRITERS



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8  
news

**Polly Peck scandal:** Former financier Elizabeth Forsyth faces years in prison as her disgraced employer languishes in hiding

# Banker jailed over £400,000 PPI theft

Elizabeth Forsyth, a former banker, was convicted at the Old Bailey today of laundering £400,000 stolen by her ex-employer Asil Nadir from his public company Polly Peck International.

Forsyth, 59, was remanded in custody by Mr Justice Tucker for pre-sentence reports: a defence application for bail was turned down. The judge warned her to be under "no illusion as to the likely nature of the sentence".

Forsyth, from Great Dunmow in Essex, had denied two charges of handling the stolen cash in October 1989.

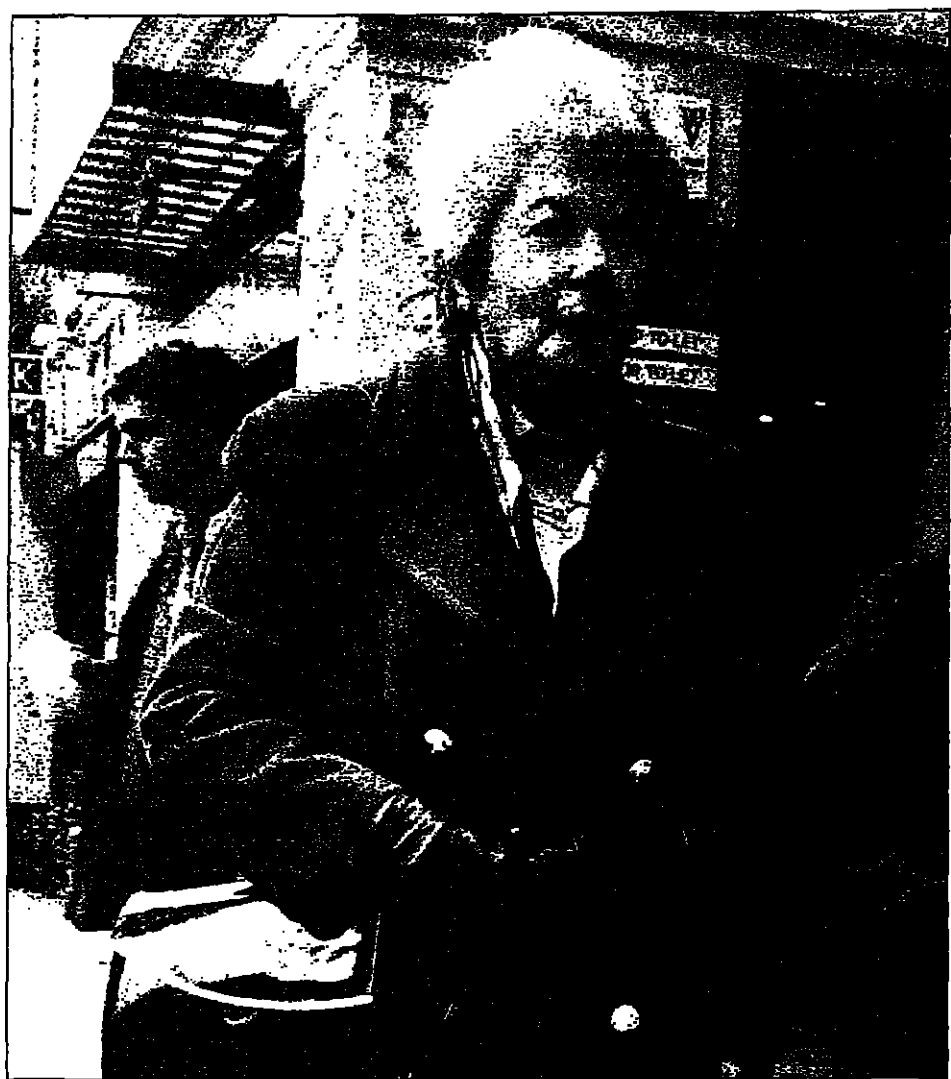
Lawyers for Asil Nadir are now expected to apply for the £30m theft charges against the fugitive businessman to be thrown out. His solicitor Peter Krivinskis said Nadir planned to apply to the High Court for the case to be dropped on the grounds of abuse of process. Nadir alleges general abuse, but the claim is understood to centre on the Serious Fraud Office's handling of the case and prejudicial media coverage.

The jury's verdict today, in essence, also convicts the fugitive tycoon, in his absence, of stealing from Polly Peck — a charge which he was facing when he jumped bail three years ago, four months before he was due to stand trial, and fled to North Cyprus.

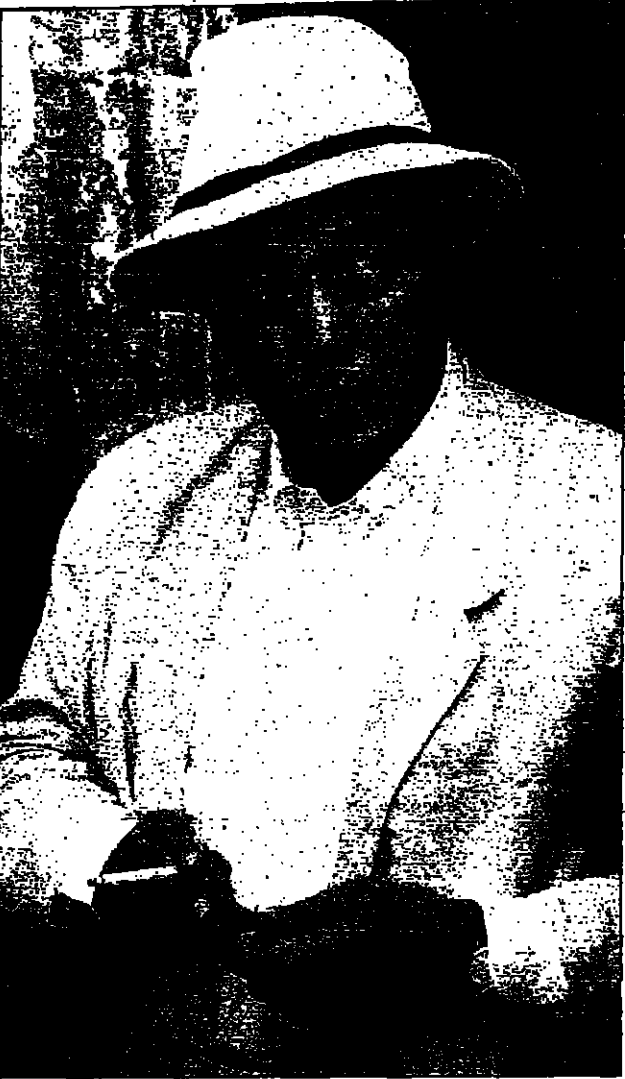
The jury of seven women and five men, who deliberated on the verdict for nearly 12 hours, were told that before they could find Forsyth guilty that the Crown had first to prove that Nadir had stolen the money.

As chairman of South Audley Management (SAM) Forsyth managed the Nadir family's private businesses and wealth. She had helped Nadir to siphon cash along a circuitous route through Swiss and English bank accounts to pay his private debts, including a large share-dealing bill.

The prosecution said that in October 1989 Forsyth went to Geneva to withdraw £400,000 in cash. The following day she deposited just over £300,000 in a different bank with instructions that it should be transferred to AJ Bekhor, a London stockbroker to whom Nadir owed money. Forsyth returned to Britain the next day and gave the remaining cash to a chauffeur to bank. It was to pay money owed by Baggrave Farm —



'Under no illusions': Elizabeth Forsyth (left), convicted yesterday of laundering £400,000 for her former boss Asil Nadir (right)



Photograph: Reuters

a Leicestershire estate owned by Nadir.

Forsyth maintained she had been sent to Geneva by Nadir simply to "hold the hands" of his bankers there following the Black Friday crash on the US markets. While in Geneva she said she was asked by a former director of SAM to withdraw the cash and transfer it to London. She claimed she had no knowledge of the monies' origin and had no reason to believe anything she was doing was unlawful. Geoffrey Robertson QC, her counsel, said Forsyth had been simply doing her duty when she was ordered to carry out the transaction.

The SFO say they are intent on prosecuting Nadir, although he remains a fugitive in Cyprus. A warrant is out for his arrest and he has been placed on Interpol lists.

Forsyth had herself gone to Northern Cyprus in early 1992. She had been questioned by the SFO the previous year, and in the summer of 1992 she learnt that the SFO wanted to interview her again, and in September 1994 she decided to return to Britain to face the music.

Forsyth was on bail throughout the five-week trial and was supported on many days by her 89-year-old mother.

Asil Nadir had been regarded as one of the wealthiest men in Britain. His £1.3bn PPI empire collapsed soon after the Serious Fraud Office raid-

ed SAM's Mayfair premises in 1990.

As a businessman, Nadir had won Queen's Awards for Industry, and had been invited to 10 Downing Street several times by the then Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher. Mr Robinson said, adding that Nadir had also contributed large sums to the Conservative Party.

## BBC to screen Saudi 'justice'

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Media Correspondent

The BBC yesterday came under fierce criticism for plans to show a Saudi Arabian criminal being beheaded with a sword, in a move that could further undermine Britain's relationship with Saudi Arabia.

The shots of the public execution are due to be shown on Panorama on 1 April.

The documentary was triggered by controversy over the Saudi dissident Mohammed al-Masari, 49, whose deportation from London was ordered after he allegedly attempted to undermine the Saudi government.

Mr Masari was tortured for six months and lost his job as a professor of physics after he established the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, a human rights group, in Saudi Arabia in 1993.

The Home Office is now reconsidering its decision to deport the Islamic activist, who has also embarrassed the British government by repeatedly denouncing the "corruption" of the Saudi royal family.

The documentary is likely to further sour relations between Britain and Saudi Arabia. In its listing, the BBC describes the country as "what many consider to be the world's most brutal and despotic regime".

It continues: "Last year nearly 200 people were publicly beheaded in Saudi, many for offences involving trafficking, alcohol and adultery, yet the British government does not dare to criticise its close Middle East ally for fear of losing lucrative arms contracts."

UK exports to Saudi Arabia totalled £1.5bn in 1994, but Saudi Arabia has indicated that if the Home Office refuses to deport Mr Masari it could withdraw business contracts with Britain.

Roger Gale, chairman of the influential Tory backbench media committee, said yesterday: "If they are going to show decapitation I would regard this as wholly gratuitous unpleasantness."

A BBC spokeswoman said: "It is not sensational. You do not actually see heads rolling on pavements."

## Travellers may fight Gummer's refusal of 'living village'

JOJO MOVES

A group of travellers may appeal to the High Court after the Secretary of State for the Environment turned down planning permission for them to build an "experimental sustainable living system" in a field they had bought in Somerset.

In what was seen as a test case, the 20 members of the Kingshill Collective were the subject of a planning inquiry likely to set a precedent for "alternative dwellers" across Britain.

Nearly two years ago they bought four acres of land near Glastonbury and applied for permission to set up home. Their alternative village, comprising 16 "benders" — semi-permanent homes made from largely organic materials — takes its power supply from solar

panels, uses dead wood for heat and draws water from a bore hole at the top of the field. But it was denied permission by Mendip District Council, which said it was seeking to protect the rural and visual character of the area. The refusal and appeal triggered several cases where John Gummer, the Secretary of State, "called in" theirs and similar judgements for reconsideration.

In a letter Mr Gummer, said: "The considerations favouring the grant of planning permission include continued security, savings to the public purse, sustainability and experimental value..."

But he added: "The view is taken that all of these considerations... are not of sufficient strength to outweigh the strong planning objections, including the highway objections."

The inspector's report accompanying the letter referred to the "applauded efforts of the collective to minimise their impact on the environment within the site... There was considerable public support for this project and no one doubted the sincerity of the group's aims and intentions."

But it said that local residents were concerned that the granting of planning permission

would set a precedent that would encourage further travellers to settle.

"My view is that a favourable decision here would lead to similar applications and consents for temporary sites for benders or tents with a serious cumulative impact on the rural landscape and the provisions of public services," the inspector said. "The collective has 12 months to find new homes."

Ravi Low Beer of the Public Law Project, who has represented the collective, said the decision was "disappointing but not unexpected" and that they were considering ways to appeal. "We say that these people shouldn't be evicted, that once humanitarian issues have been raised the onus is on the public bodies concerned to show why people should be evicted," he said.

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## Stargazers hope cloudbreak will give sight of Hyakutake

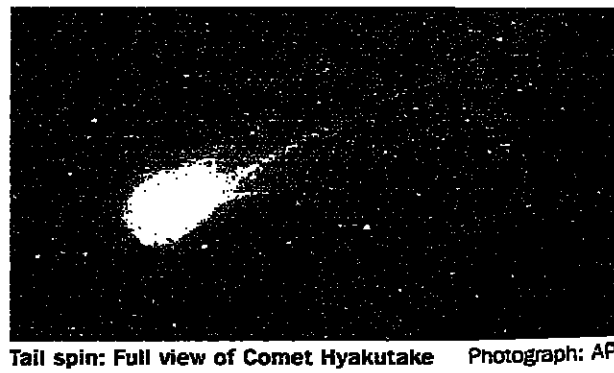
TOM WILKIE and PAUL FIELD

Britain's clouded skies have so far denied thousands of amateur and professional astronomers any glimpse of the brightest comet to grace our skies for 20 years.

And the disappointment is likely to continue, according to weathermen. The BBC Radio forecaster Philip Eden reported that the only breaks in cloud covering Britain today are expected to be in south-east England and north-west Scotland. By tomorrow, only stargazers in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland will stand a chance of spotting the comet.

However by Monday – the day of comet Hyakutake's closest approach to Earth – there should be some hope for people in the north-west of England. Only by the middle of the week might there be a break in the cloud over eastern England.

If the clouds do lift next week, the comet should be



Tail spin: Full view of Comet Hyakutake Photograph: AP

among the brightest objects in the sky, easily bright enough to be seen with the naked eye. It will be visible virtually all night from Britain. Looking east, it will appear among the stars close to the constellation of the Plough, gradually changing its position in the sky in successive evenings before disappearing from view in the vicinity of the Pleiades at the end of April. Contrary to popular belief, comets do not flash across the sky, so Hyakutake will actually

appear virtually stationary to the naked eye. The comet is basically a ball of dust and ice, just a few kilometres across, which was formed at around the same time as the planets. As it nears the sun, ice and dust stream off the nucleus, forming an atmosphere and a tail.

There is also a straighter, narrower "plasma" tail – consisting of ionised gases. This whistles as it is blown by the "solar wind" – a stream of charged atomic particles flowing outwards from

the sun. Kinks often appear in this tail and sometimes it appears to drop off altogether.

Ionised water is an important constituent of the plasma tail and is formed by water molecules escaping the nucleus and then being bombarded by the sun's ultraviolet radiation.

Among the many observations which will be made of the comet around the world, at the Mullard Space Science Laboratory of University College London, the astronomer Geraint Jones will be looking just at the light from this ionised water molecule, by using a colour filter to block out all other wavelengths. The study will cast light on the chemistry of the comet and trace how the molecules are accelerated through space by the solar wind.

The comet was discovered in late January by a Japanese amateur astronomer, Yuji Hyakutake, using large binoculars. Its orbit is thought to take around 18,000 years to complete a circuit around the sun.

Dusted off: Marilyn Dalton, general manager of Audley End House at Saffron Walden, Essex, arranging one of its tens of thousands of stuffed birds and animals for the new season's re-opening on 3 April Photograph: Brian Hams

## Barclay brothers seek 'UDI' for island

CHRIS BLACKHURST

David and Frederick Barclay, the reclusive multi-millionaire owners of the Ritz Hotel in London and the *Scotsman* and *European* newspapers, yesterday formally applied for effective independence for Brecqhou, the tiny island they own in the Channel Islands.

Also yesterday, a court in St Malo, France, began hearing a complaint by the Barclay brothers that they were falsely accused of corruption in a BBC interview, broadcast in Guernsey last October, and heard on the French mainland.

In a move disclosed in the *Independent*, the Barclays are effectively declaring UDI for Brecqhou, where they are currently building a mock-Gothic cliff-top fortress home. Their application may ultimately have to be resolved by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

If successful, the brothers, who eschew all personal publicity, will avoid paying Sark's minimal taxes and will have a tighter control over who can, and cannot, visit their domain. They have been complaining to Michael Beaumont, the Seigneur, or governor, of Sark, about the island's police force visiting Brecqhou.

The Barclays, who own other hotels and numerous properties around the world, are worth an estimated £600m. They told Guernsey's Royal Court, the island's equivalent of the High Court in England, yesterday, that in their view Brecqhou forms no part of Sark, its

larger neighbour, which traditionally has ruled over the island. Giving their addresses as Avenue Princess Grace, Monte Carlo, the brothers demanded repayment from the Sark authorities of £179,000 in property tax they were required to pay when they bought Brecqhou in 1993 for a reported £2.3m.

In their declaration, made for them by Lloyd Stratton, one of the Channel Islands' leading lawyers, they declared that "Brecqhou forms no part of the fief of Sark", that a law of 1611 banning the break-up of Sark did not apply to their island; and "that the Court of the Seneschal of Sark (the island's highest authority) has no jurisdiction over Brecqhou".

Mr Beaumont, who inherited the title from the legendary Dame of Sark, asked for more time to prepare his defence. The court granted a request from his lawyer, David Le Marquand, who said the Seigneur would need "lots of time".

If the St Malo case goes against the BBC, the judgment is likely to be seen as a significant legal precedent and may pave the way for further actions against media, printing, or broadcasting in the UK and being read and heard in France.

The Barclay twins are claiming criminal libel damages of £108,000. They complain that in the BBC Radio Guernsey interview with *Observer* journalist John Sweeney, they were wrongly accused of having engaged in acts that could be qualified as corruption. The BBC has said it will contest the allegations "vigorously".

## Screening by GPs faces axe

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

The Government is prepared to consider abolishing an £85m-a-year health promotion package undertaken by family doctors which academics say is largely a waste of taxpayers' money.

The scheme involves GPs counting their patients aged 15-74 who smoke, recording their blood pressure, alcohol consumption and obesity; their family history of heart disease and stroke, and offering them advice on a better lifestyle.

The scheme – which pays family doctors thousands of pounds a year if they hit all their targets – has been one of the more controversial parts of the contract the Government imposed on GPs in 1990. GPs say it is bureaucratic, untargeted and involves counting numbers rather than genuinely intervening to improve health.

Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, has told GPs' leaders at the British Medical Association that he recognises "the dissatisfaction" within the profession over the programme, adding: "Last, therefore, willing to consider its abolition."

An evaluation in 1994 of the British Family Heart Study, which uses intensive interventions by nurses to try to persuade individuals to change their lifestyle, concluded it was "of little benefit". The gains from the less-intensive programme most GPs offer were therefore "likely to be even smaller", the study concluded.

A cut in heart disease and stroke is one of the Government's *Health of the Nation* targets, but the study said focusing on those who have heart disease or are known to be at high risk was likely to give better results.

Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the BMA's family doctors' committee, welcomed Mr Dorrell's move yesterday, but stressed that neither Mr Dorrell nor GPs wanted to put an end to health promotion in general practice. "It's just that we want to get rid of this particular programme and the way it is constructed."

The change is likely to come as part of a new contract which Mr Dorrell has indicated will be on offer if he and GPs' leaders can agree on changes that will shift more of the work traditionally done in hospitals into general practice.

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# Kremlin digs in heels over Nato expansion

TONY BARBER  
Europe Editor

The United States and Russia failed yesterday to narrow their differences over Nato's plans to incorporate former Communist countries in central and eastern Europe.

Speaking after a meeting in Moscow between President Boris Yeltsin and the US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, Russia's Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, said: "Russia will never accept Nato enlargement, not because it has any right of veto, but because it will not tolerate a worsening geopolitical situation and will stand by its interests."

Russia's leadership regards Nato's planned expansion as a challenge to Russian security that could throw Europe back into a second "Ice Age" of East-West confrontation. But Mr Christopher, speaking in Prague last Wednesday to 12 central and eastern-European foreign ministers, reaffirmed that Nato had committed itself to expansion and said the region's new democracies would not be kept waiting forever.

Mr Primakov suggested a

compromise might be possible if Nato did not move its "military infrastructure" into potential new member-states such as the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. However, both Nato and the three central European states are adamant that Russia cannot dictate the terms of their admission into the alliance.

Nato's Secretary-General, Javier Solana, visited Moscow earlier in the week and urged Russian leaders to recognise that Nato no longer resembled the military alliance that it was in Cold War times. However,



Mr Christopher: Adamant

the Russians repeated their argument that Nato's expansion would represent an unacceptable extension of Western influence up to Russia's borders. Despite the clash of views over Nato, Mr Christopher made clear that the US still had faith in Mr Yeltsin's reformist potential and hoped he would emerge victorious from next June's presidential election. He said that President Bill Clinton's policy was "to support the reforms and those who are enthusiastic about reforms and who are carrying out reforms. That has brought him into strong support for President Yeltsin on prior occasions."

Mr Clinton is due to travel to Moscow on 19-20 April for a summit with Mr Yeltsin on nuclear security. The visit is likely to be interpreted as a show of US solidarity with Mr Yeltsin. Mr Yeltsin faces a strong challenge from the Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, whose party sent shock waves across eastern Europe last week by pushing a resolution through the Russian parliament that called for the restoration of the Soviet Union. However, the parliament avoided a clash with

Mr Christopher yesterday by ignoring a draft resolution from a Communist deputy that denounced the Secretary of State for criticising last week's vote.

Mr Yeltsin, the chief architect of the Soviet Union's dissolution in 1991, has declared himself firmly opposed to Mr Zyuganov's stated aim of recreating the Soviet state by peaceful means. However, after his talks with Mr Christopher, Mr Yeltsin was playing host to the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, who advocates the integration of his country with Russia.

"I will propose to Mr Yeltsin the signing of a treaty free of all ambiguities and creating union institutions of a supranational nature," Mr Lukashenko said before leaving Minsk for Moscow. When he visited Moscow last month, he and Mr Yeltsin signed documents on integration that have yet to be made public.

The Russian authorities have not been entirely enthusiastic about Mr Lukashenko's proposals in the past, partly because they would require substantial Russian economic support for Belarus.



Silent witness: Madeleine Albright, US ambassador to the United Nations, at the site of the mass grave, 100km north of Srebrenica. Photograph: AFP

## Proof of Serb crimes revealed

EMMA DALY  
Sarajevo

The US has, for the first time, released aerial photographs apparently showing the mass burial of Muslim men from Srebrenica who were executed by Bosnian Serbs after the fall of the enclave in July 1995.

Madeleine Albright, the US ambassador to the United Nations, visited the site at a farm in eastern Bosnia yesterday, then issued photographs to journalists in Sarajevo.

There is evidence that this is a place where there was systematic murdering of large numbers of people - around 1,000," Ms Albright said after her visit to Branjevo farm.

Some evidence for the massacre has come from Serbs who admitted their involvement. They say Muslims were rounded up in Potocari, where Dutch UN troops in Srebrenica were based, then taken by bus north to the site at Branjevo. There, unarmed and defenceless, the men were led out, 10 at a time, and shot.

The two photos, before and after, show an ordinary ploughed field at Branjevo farm on 5 July, on 17 July, a week after the fall of Srebrenica, the field shows the tracks of heavy vehicles, an excavator at work, a mound of earth, and a large number of objects identified by US officials as bodies.

The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal yesterday issued its first indictments for war crimes allegedly committed against Serbs. Three of those indicted are Bosnian Muslims.

## Russians try new tactics to flush out Chechen fighters

It is growing dark and we are in a red-brick building which could easily be mistaken for an English parish hall, were it not in a Chechen village in the middle of a war zone.

To its occupants, a group of separatist fighters, it is headquarters, a place to plan nocturnal raids on the marauding Russian army. To the Russians, it is a pocket of resistance, one of those targets which they are under orders to destroy.

But to me, a journalist seeking interviews, it seems more like a local social club, a version of the British Legion in the Caucasus. In the kitchen, two women are peeling onions and boiling water for tea. On the bashed-in sofas and armchairs around the room sit a handful of men, some in fighter's clothes, others in mufti. Every generation is represented here, from a pale boy in fatigues who looks far too young to kill, to a grizzled one-eyed veteran, who looks far too old to do so.

One of the Chechens tells us that the Russian army is less than 10 miles away; we can hear occasional artillery fire and exchanges of machine-gun fire. Two or three fighters, mere youths, lounge around and smoke on the balcony, apparently keeping watch, with their rifles nearby. There is probably no need. The rebels have many supporters out there, and the apple orchards and the muddy lanes, low-abiding residents who would none the less alert them if the Russians arrived.

The leader, Doku Makhayev, a lean man with a dense black beard, is sitting on a bed in the corner, under a wall decorated with posters of the guerrilla leaders Dzhokhar Dudayev and Shamil Basayev and a Chechen flag. He is in uniform, and car-

ries a knife with a fox-foot handle in his breast pocket, a pistol at his hip, and the TV channel controller in his hand.

Before the war, he was a construction worker. Now, at 41, though a father of five, he is a full-time fighter: regimental and deputy chief commander of the south-western sector, known as Sector Number One. He has 11 villages on his patch, including this one.

For him, these are particularly troubled times. The Russians have launched an offensive in which they are trying to flush out Mr Dudayev's forces from the villages by persuading elders to sign agreements, promising to expel the fighters from their midst. Those that refuse to do so risk joining the lengthening list of settlements which the Russians have been - and, in some cases, this week, still were - bombarding.

"In this village, people are not going to sign," said Mr Makhayev. "There are certain circles who are willing, but they wouldn't dare." His men were therefore stockpiling weapons, and preparing their defences in readiness for a Russian onslaught.

Last month, he said, the separatists held a series of rallies in nearby villages, explaining how worthless they thought the agreements were. They might as well be "death warrants," he said. Just look at the fate of Novogrozny, a village which - according to several reports - had signed an agreement, but was still shelled.

The strategy of the Russians and the Moscow-backed government of Doku Zavgayev (who claims 77 villages have now signed) is to try to drive a wedge through Chechen communities, causing peaceful residents to turn against the local fighters whose presence could lead to their doom. It is, however, easy for the rebels to shrug off responsibility for any bloodshed; they can blame the Russians.

They also tend to argue that death is a matter determined only by Allah - no matter how many Russian shells shower down from the heavens. And the Kremlin has almost certainly failed to understand the complexity and depth of the relations which knit together peaceable Chechens with the "boeviki", the fighters.

Talking to Mr Makhayev, one is inclined to dismiss him as a boaster, a braggart lacking any clout. This evaporates when he suddenly turns up the TV set,

now showing a prestigious Russian current affairs programme. He explains that he arrested one of its journalists, for editing pictures of corpses into a recorded interview with Dudayev. He only let his captive go after the programme agreed to apologise; now he wanted to see if it would keep the promise. It did. "Excellent," he said, quietly.

It was a small triumph. Mr Makhayev dreams of bigger victories: winning the right for a referendum on independence and the departure of the Russians. He insists that there would be no massive reprisals, and denies President Yeltsin's claim that an all-out withdrawal would lead to civil war.

"The Muslim courts will deal with 10 or 15 traitors who invited the Russian troops here, but we will find a common language. We are all Chechens, and all of the same blood." What of the hundreds of Chechens, the local Ministry of Interior police, who fought against them in Grozny? "We will forgive them."

For now, this is fantasy. He must focus on the war. He says Mr Dudayev's forces, in absolute disarray last summer, are now stronger and more numerous. "We have arms, we have transport, our people are well rested, and our wounded guys are being taken care of." They are planning another spectacular assault, "a blockbuster movie," he says.

And, sitting in their village headquarters, he and his men are looking forward to the summer. "Allah helps us by sending fog at night. There will be green leaves on the trees soon, and they will screen our manoeuvres." What no one in that building knows, is whether they will live to see the summer, when it comes.

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## Tibetan nomads near starvation after hard winter

RAYMOND WHITAKER

Yaks are among the hardiest creatures on earth, but not even these long-haired beasts have been able to withstand the cruellest winter in over a century in the heart of Asia.

Months of drought on the 18,000ft Tibetan plateau, followed by the worst blizzards in living memory and night temperatures of -45C, may kill up to a million yaks, cattle and sheep.

This is a disaster for 100,000 Tibetan nomads, who are entirely dependent on their herds and now face starvation. The Chinese authorities in Sichuan and Qinghai provinces have used up their relief supplies, and are turning to outside agencies for help.

Serge Depotter, a foreign relief worker who recently visited the worst-affected areas, said several dozen people had died from cold, and 28,000 more

were suffering from frostbite and snow blindness. Respiratory infections, including tuberculosis, have become rife among the malnourished population.

Mr Depotter's organisation, the Belgian branch of Médecins Sans Frontières, has organised a truck convoy to bring 1,200 tonnes of barley, medicines and other supplies to the starving nomads. "It is no longer possible to try to save the livestock, only the people," said an official of the Qinghai provincial government. But the herdsmen are entirely dependent on their animals for food, fuel, clothing and hides for their tents.

Sean Mayne Smith, a photographer who returned this week from the disaster area, said the Chinese authorities had had to disperse the nomads from giving relief food to their animals. "Without their herds, these people have nothing," he said. "They are as poor as the people of Ethiopia."



The carcass of a yak which died in the exceptionally harsh winter in Qinghai province, China, north of the Himalayas. Photograph: Sean Mayne Smith

## Somali villagers rescue relief workers

KARIN DAVIES  
Associated Press Writer

Nairobi — Five foreign aid workers taken hostage at a Somali airport by a disgruntled former United Nations contractor were rescued by armed villagers who fired on the kidnappers, Unicef said yesterday. A young boy was shot in the head by one of the kidnappers during the confrontation and was in a coma, said Pierre Gerety, the agency's Somalia representative, who is based in Nairobi.

Villagers became suspicious of the minivan and pick-up truck loaded with five foreigners and 10 gunmen as it passed through Farsaley, about 75 miles south-west of Mogadishu, at dusk on Thursday.

"They realised this was a kidnapping in progress," said Mr Gerety. "They shot at the kidnappers to stop them. One bullet went into the minivan. The kidnappers shot a kid." The heavily armed villagers surrounded the van, and forced the gunmen to pass their weapons out the windows of their vehicles, Mr Gerety said, quoting one of the hostages. Police took the kidnappers into custody, he added.

The village is in an area served by foreign relief agencies. The hostages spent the night in the UN minivan, and yesterday drove back to Mogadishu, the Somali capital. The UN workers included William Condie, as well as a Nepalese, a Sudanese, an Indian, and the American head of the World Health Organisation in Somalia.

The five were taken by an armed gang led by a Somali who formerly rented a vehicle to Unicef, and was unhappy his contract had ended.

International aid organisations employed hundreds of Somalis in the early 1990s until the UN mission to Somalia pulled out a year ago. Armed groups have regularly taken hostages to exact what they feel are arrears in wages.

## Taiwan ponders price of democracy

If things had been different, Liang-chuan and Ting-chun would have been old enough to vote in Taiwan's first democratic presidential election today.

Instead, their parents, political activists, will this morning reflect on the price their family has paid in the Taiwanese people's struggle for reform. On 28 February 1980 a man entered their guarded home in Taipei and stabbed to death the six-year-old twin girls and their grandmother. When their elder sister returned from school she too was attacked and only just survived.

The slaughter was probably the worst atrocity of Taiwan's recent political history. Neither the date of the murders nor the victims was a matter of chance. The day marked the anniversary of the 1947 incident which led to the killing of up to 20,000 Taiwanese by ruling Kuomintang (KMT) nationalists determined to crush calls for reform.

The two girls were daughters of Lin Yi-tung, a lawyer and a member of the Formosa

As polling begins under the glare of mainland China, activists recall the sacrifices they made, writes **Teresa Poole** in Taipei

group of pro-democracy activists, who had appeared in court that morning on sedition charges. The murdered old lady was Mr Lin's mother. No one has been punished and, despite the improved political environment, no official inquiry has been held into the deaths.

Mr Lin's wife, Fang Su-min, still asks: "After my husband's arrest, my house was under 24-hour surveillance. The guards knew if anybody came in my home. How could a murderer have entered my home, and killed three people?" It is presumed a pro-KMT faction probably carried out the killings as a warning to the opposition.

As Peng-Ming-min, the candidate from the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) reminded everyone this week, Taiwan's evolution to democracy has not been as bloodless as is sometimes por-

trayed. For decades the KMT ruthlessly wiped out opposition. "We worked so hard to get this election," said Antonio Chiang, an editor of political magazines. After the murders, Mr Lin spent four-and-a-half years in jail, and a decade in ex-

ile. In the 16 years following that terrible afternoon, Taiwan's political climate has changed greatly. Martial law ended in 1987 and opposition parties legalised in 1989. Last night, in a display of democracy, all four candidates held rallies and marches throughout Taiwan.

The institute is in Ilan county, two hours' drive from Taipei, one of the most solid areas of DPP support. People in Ilan insist reform still has some way to go. "Lee is the worst president, because he allows corruption and the government relationship with the mafia," said Yu

These days, Ms Fang runs a private institute, the Forest of Mercy foundation, to document the pro-democracy movement and Taiwanese culture. Mr Lin concentrates on opposing Taiwan's planned fourth nuclear power station.

Hsiang-neng, who was working in the DPP Ilan headquarters. Do Ilan people still hate the KMT? "Yes," said Ms Fang. Twelve years ago Ilan was one of the first counties to elect an opposition mayor.

But it is Peking, not the Taiwanese, which has defined the agenda for today's polls. China's military threats mean Taiwan's international status is the crucial issue. Most Taiwanese will tell you the same thing: in practice Taiwan is an independent state, has been under separate government for more than a century, and reunification with the Communist People's Republic is unthinkable. Where they disagree is in how to preserve such a fragile status quo and how aggressively to deal with an increasingly belligerent mainland.

Dr Peng of the DPP said the One China fiction should be

abandoned in favour of accepting Taiwan's de facto independence; but he would not declare independence unless China invaded. The incumbent KMT President, Mr Lee Teng-hui, denies Peking's allegation that he secretly favours independence but he says China is a cultural entity, and reunification could only occur after the mainland achieves democracy.

That leaves the man most conciliatory towards Peking, Mr Lee: Accused of graft



Mr Lee: Accused of graft

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That leaves the man most conciliatory towards Peking, Mr Lee: Accused of graft



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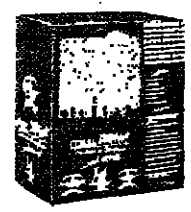
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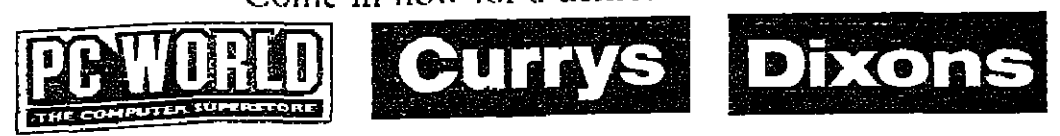
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In the last of our European profiles John Lichfield looks at a most continental city: Birmingham

# Brum marches to a happier tune

We are standing in one of the pleasantest squares in Europe, dominated by an impressive, gold-leaf-encrusted Hôtel de Ville. There is a large waterfall-fountain with a recumbent post-modern statue of a huge, female bather. There is a flower stall on the corner, which is reminiscent of Amsterdam. There is a scattering of the ornate advertising pillars which are typical of French cities. There are pigeons.

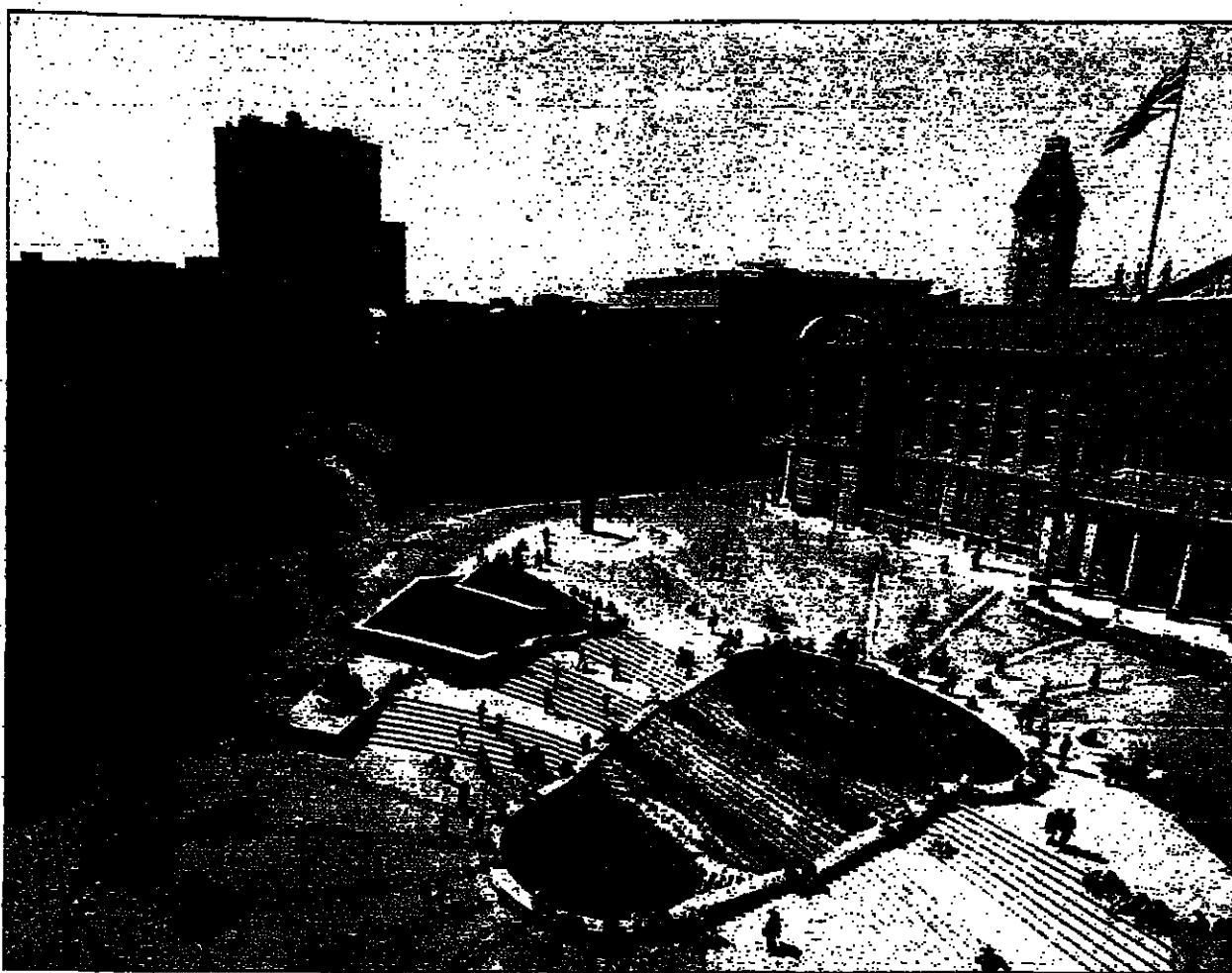
Unfortunately, it is pouring with rain. But then what do you expect? This is Birmingham and it is March.

Victoria Square, created by removing part of New Street, is the epicentre of Birmingham's efforts over the past 12 years to reinvent itself – largely thanks to cash from the European Union. Nearby there is a pleasant mall with an atrium, the International Conference Centre, a classical concert hall and a canal-side park. Birmingham always had more canals than Venice but you were never previously advised to visit them.

Beyond – not far beyond, admittedly – you come back to the tangle of urban thoroughways and high-rises which squeezed the life out of Birmingham in the late 1960s. It is as if the city had set out to become Detroit, changed its mind and decided to become Lille or Liège or Turin instead.

"It was absolutely a conscious decision, absolutely, to go for the European look," said Tony Bradley, Director of Business Policy at the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "The City Council wanted it to look European and they were quite right because Europe is our future. Birmingham is at the centre of one of the great city-regions of Europe and that is the way we feel Europe will go. It will increasingly be dominated, not by nations, but by city-regions."

This article comes at the end of a series in which the *Independent* attempts to look into the future of the European Union, not from the standard vantage point of national capitals, but from the perspective of its regions: Bordeaux, Bologna, Bavaria and now Birmingham. In Turin next Friday EU heads of government will launch a year-long inter-governmental



Looking to the future: Birmingham's Victoria Square rivals the more famous city scenes found across the Channel

Conference (IGC) which will try to plot the shape of the European Union for the next century. The received view is that the negotiations will once again see the pro-Europe continental member states and Ireland teaming up against Britain, the perpetually reluctant European.

This may well be so. But our forays into the regions suggest that public opinion – at least, informed business and political opinion – no longer fits either of these traditional moulds. On the continent, post-Maastricht, there is a growing questioning of the purpose and direction of the European Union. In Britain, outside the feid atmosphere of Westminster, there remains great scepticism and uncertainty but also a conviction that Britain's place is in Europe.

David Maxwell is Chief Executive of Birmingham City 2000, a pressure group seeking

to bolster the city's growing reputation as an international services centre. He says the West Midlands was traditionally an inward-looking region, a metal-bashing manufacturer of hardware for Britain and its Empire, with little direct contact with the continent. "We have emerged from the 80s with

much of that industry gone. But that which remains – and the financial services industries which have grown up here – are absolutely committed to the idea of Birmingham, and Britain, as part of European single market.

There is great suspicion about the idea of more European political integration. Most people can't see the need for it. On the single currency, business here is very divided. But there is also, I think, great unease that the British Government seems always to place Britain on the edge of the debate."

In Victoria Square, I tried for a wider cross-section of Birmingham opinion. In 20 minutes, before the rain destroyed my notebook, I spoke to a dozen or so passers-by. Not one of them was aware of next week's conference; only one person was vaguely aware that the EU had invested £200m in the revival of their city since 1984; all spoke with varying degrees of indifference – but no especial hostility – of the future of the European Union.

Of all the people I met more

formally in Birmingham, the one who best summed up the ambivalence of British attitudes was Christopher Spall, senior partner of Barker, Brettell and Duncan, a large firm of patent and trade-mark attorneys. Mr Spall says he has "very strong views" about the EU. "I am strongly against any further bureaucracy and any further political integration. I am strongly against the single currency... I saw Chancellor Kohl on the TV the other night, raving on about federalism. Honestly, all he needed was the small moustache..."

Mr Spall grinned impishly. On the other hand, he points out that his firm – once entirely dependent on winning UK patents for local manufacturing businesses – now depends for its survival on British membership of the EU. One third of its

work is European: acting for British companies who want a European patent, but also for American and Japanese companies who want both British and European patents.

"When they opened the European Patents office in Munich, I heard the worst, he said. 'I thought, here we go, European rules and German officialdom. But it hasn't been like that. It works very sensitively and efficiently. We get on with the Germans very well.'"

Municipally, Birmingham takes its new-found European-ness very seriously. It was one of the five founding members of Euro-city, an urban pressure group which now unites more than 60 EU cities. The city council was one of the first in Britain to have its own representation in Brussels. Birmingham has worked aggressively and intelligently to win EU regional fund grants. "Brussels was ready to entertain and actively support regeneration projects... while they were still out of favour in Whitehall," said Gareth Williams, the city's director of European and International Affairs.

But Mr Williams says that Birmingham has found Europe just as invigorating as a habit of mind. "Within Britain, Birmingham will always be Birmingham, the second-city. In Europe, we take our place quite naturally in the first tier of big provincial cities. There is a lot we can learn: there is a lot we can teach. It gives us... a network, and a network which doesn't go through London."

Habit of mind is an important European issue. Mr Williams believes Europe is also a generational issue: younger generations are, he says, much more open to the idea of a European Britain. Maybe.

On the train to Birmingham, I met a young Brummie in his 20s. A *Sim* reader, a van driver out of work because he had lost his driving licence. He cared nothing about European politics. But he was on his way home from Holland, where he had been to register for work.

"I've been there before," he said. "I'm going to get work in the bulb harvest, mate. There's nothing happening in Birmingham. There's nothing happening in this country. They know how to live over there."

## IN BRIEF

## French back Pacific test ban

Paris — France, the US and Britain will sign the Treaty of Rarotonga, on Monday, turning the South Pacific into a nuclear-free zone, the French Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

The three western powers will sign three protocols of the treaty, banning nuclear weapons and nuclear tests in the region, where France completed a bitterly-disputed series of six nuclear weapons tests in January. *Reuter*

## Palestinian hijacker recaptured

Rome — A Palestinian who escaped from jail in Italy where he was serving a sentence for hijacking the *Achille Lauro* cruise liner in 1985 has been recaptured in southern Spain. The Italian Justice Ministry said Maguid al-Molqi had been arrested by Italian detectives with Spanish police help in Silva, southern Spain. The US had offered a \$2m reward for his capture. *Reuter*

## Ban on British historian upheld

Munich — A court yesterday upheld an order barring controversial British historian David Irving from entering Germany because of his views on the Holocaust. Mr Irving had appealed against the 1993 decision, imposed after Munich neo-Nazis invited him to appear at an event to mark the 55th anniversary of the Nazis' Kristallnacht pogroms against the Jews. *Reuter*

## Mugabe warns party

Harare — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe ordered his ruling party to address voters' grievances, just days after being re-elected in a one-man presidential race boycotted by the majority of voters. "I believe now is the time to analyse the people's grievances as they expressed them in both their urban and rural setting, and work out urgent and effective ways of addressing them," he told a meeting of his ZANU-PF party. *Reuter*

## Leonardo renovation attacked

Paris — A French art historian claimed Italian restorers had stripped away so much from Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" that they turned his masterpiece into a ghostly image more like a modern painting. Jacques Franck said the team restoring the mural in a Milan church had stripped away all the repaints added since Leonardo painted the work, taking no account of their crucial role in preserving the original. *Reuter*

## Athens airport security condemned

Washington — The US said Athens' Hellenikon International Airport did not fully meet internationally established security standards. Chiefly at issue are checkpoint screening procedures, an official said. Standards are set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation. *Reuter*

## Queen to visit Holocaust memorial

London — The Queen will visit Umschlagplatz in Warsaw, where Jews began their journey to Treblinka concentration camp, during her trip to Poland next week, Buckingham Palace said yesterday. The announcement is a response to complaints from Jewish leaders that she would not be visiting Auschwitz. The Queen flies to Warsaw on Monday. *Reuter*

## Resistance hero dies

Paris — Claude Bourdet, a Resistance hero who survived a Nazi death camp to become an outspoken left-wing journalist criticising racism and French colonial policies, has died. He was 86. In his final years he defended the Bosnian Muslim government and the Palestinian cause. *Reuter*

## When a spade is not a spade

Bucharest — An eccentric Transylvanian mayor has come up with an idea to stop city workers leaning on their shovels instead of working, by making the handles too short. "The handles should be shortened so that they can no longer be used as a leaning point by those who meditate while at work," said Georgehe Furiar. *Reuter*

## Police end church protest

MARY DEJEVSKY  
Paris

French police and riot troops mounted a joint operation at dawn yesterday to evict more than 400 Africans, including about 100 children, from a central Paris church where they had taken refuge. They had occupied the church since Monday in a joint action supported by immigrants and equal rights groups to demand the legalisation of their status in France.

Police stormed out the church from 2am, then launched their raid shortly before six, smashing down the church door.

The police said the operation had been carried out "humanely and with every effort to avoid violence".

While the majority had agreed to leave the church peacefully, more than 70 refused to go. By 9am they were still in the church precincts, sitting defiantly on the cold, wet ground. Surrounded by dozens of police in full riot gear, they were a bizarrely colourful sight amid the rush of morning commuters and shoppers.

A crowd of a hundred or so gathered around the police barriers, some telling the protesters to go back where they had

come from, others shouting their support. Fierce arguments broke out. "I'm Jewish," said one woman, "and we were like them once. Let them stay." The church of St Ambroise is on the edge of the Marais, a traditionally Jewish section of the city.

The Africans, mostly from Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, offered eloquent testimony to the confusion of French immigration laws, which sometimes leave spouses and children with different nationality status. By yesterday evening, the protesters had moved on, occupying a nearby gymnasium.

## Turkey adopts Kurdish festival

HUGH POPE  
Istanbul

The new Turkish government of Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz this week launched a bloodless takeover of Nevruz, the Kurdish spring equinox festival, an occasion the Kurds had made into a day of protest against Turkish oppression from the late 1980s.

A new jerry-built platform of Turkey's state ideology turned Nevruz into a re-discovered spring festival of all the 150 million people of the Turkic world. One of the more bizarre results is that the spring festival is now officially encouraged in Turkey while liberal Germany has banned it because celebrations had turned into violent demonstrations by the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK).

In Turkey, however, the PKK is banned and, despite new PKK threats against Turkish tourism and cities, it is militarily weakened after 11 years of fighting in which 18,500 people have died. The establishment is now debating what to do next.

Faint hints from Mr Yilmaz about allowing Kurdish broadcasting, education and free cultural expression have found few echoes. But the meaninglessness of the old state nationalism was undermined by the way the establishment was able to adopt the new Turkish-style Nevruz without missing a beat.

In the capital, Ankara, President Suleyman Demirel fired a pistol to start the First International Nevruz quarter-marathon. The Turkish national lottery had a special Nevruz draw. Pamphlets arguing the long "Turkish" tradition of Nevruz were posted to all and sundry.

Meanwhile, down in the Kurdish south-east, Kurds who used to use the day to defy the Turkish authorities - 100 people were killed in Nevruz clashes in 1992 - were encouraged to gather to celebrate in stadiums. Soldiers on checkpoints were ordered to greet wayfarers with the greeting "Happy Nevruz".

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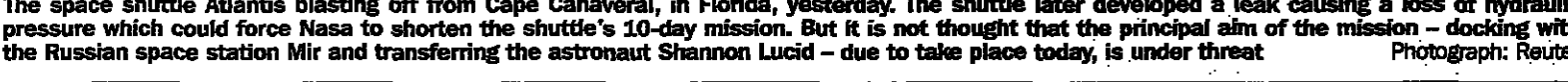


stress that another Hamas bomb in Israel could finally destroy Labour's chances. It is also true that the radical right has not changed its views, although it has been more discreet since Mr Rabin was murdered. Mr Peres says that the Shin Bet security agency has told him that there are thousands willing to kill him in order to prevent Israel withdrawal from the West Bank.

# UN suspects Iraq of hiding Scud missiles

Mr. Ekeus's team believes that between six and 16 missiles

filled with nerve gas and is filled with botulism toxin.



# Zulu gunmen kill 11 in attack on ANC

The provincial police commissioner, Chris Serfontein, said police were offering a reward of 250,000 rand (£42,000). Mr Mandela said at one of his

# Holy rebels strike terror into Uganda's villages

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35,000 - 39,999	6.00	4.50	35,000 - 39,999	4.85	3.85
40,000 - 44,999	0.50	0.38	40,000 - 44,999	3.45	2.59
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Less uncharged			500 or more	0.50	0.38
25,000 or more	6.97	5.23	<b>POSTAL 71 (Monthly):</b>		
25,000 - 29,999	6.60	4.95	100,000 or more	4.75	3.56
30,000 - 34,999	5.84	4.38	100,000 - 199,999	4.70	3.53
35,000 - 39,999	0.50	0.38	200,000 - 249,999	4.60	3.45
<b>POSTAL 90 (Annual):</b>			250,000 - 299,999	3.78	2.94
250,000 or more	5.70	4.28	300,000 - 349,999	3.40	2.55
250,000 - 299,999	5.60	4.20	350,000 - 399,999	0.50	0.38
300,000 - 349,999	5.30	3.98	<b>POSTAL ACCOUNT* (Annual)</b>		
350,000 - 399,999	4.30	3.23	Can now be operated through branches.		
400,000 - 449,999	0.50	0.38	250,000 or more	4.60	3.45
<b>POSTAL 90 (Monthly):</b>			250,000 - 299,999	4.45	3.54
250,000 or more	5.56	4.17	300,000 - 349,999	4.35	3.38
250,000 - 299,999	5.16	3.80	350,000 - 399,999	3.40	2.55
300,000 - 349,999	4.22	3.17	400,000 - 449,999	3.15	2.36
350,000 - 399,999	0.50	0.38	450,000 - 499,999	2.40	1.95
<b>POSTAL 60 (Annual):</b>			500 - 549,999	0.50	0.38
100,000 or more	5.10	3.83	<b>POSTAL ACCOUNT* (Monthly)</b>		
100,000 - 199,999	4.95	3.71	Can now be operated through branches.		
200,000 - 249,999	4.60	3.60	250,000 or more	4.51	3.38
250,000 - 299,999	4.30	3.27	250,000 - 299,999	4.36	3.27
300,000 - 349,999	3.80	2.85	300,000 - 349,999	3.27	2.20
350,000 - 399,999	2.90	2.25	350,000 - 399,999	2.55	1.57
400,000 - 449,999	0.50	0.38	400,000 - 449,999	1.10	0.85
<b>POSTAL 60 (Monthly):</b>			450 - 499,999	0.50	0.38
250,000 or more	4.96	3.74	<b>GO DIRECT*</b>		
250,000 - 299,999	4.84	3.63	Can now be operated through branches.		
300,000 - 349,999	4.70	3.53	250,000 - 299,999	4.60	3.45
350,000 - 399,999	3.52	2.77	300,000 - 349,999	4.45	3.34
400,000 - 449,999	2.80	2.31	350,000 - 399,999	3.65	2.85
450 - 499,999	0.50	0.38	400,000 - 449,999	3.15	2.36
<b>POSTAL 30</b>			450,000 - 499,999	2.60	1.95
250,000 or more	4.90	3.68			
250,000 - 299,999	4.58	3.56			
300,000 - 349,999	3.95	2.96			
350,000 - 399,999	3.50	2.63			

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<p>1. For the year ended 31.12.2024, the company has been granted a 10% discount on the purchase of goods from its suppliers. The discount is available for the first 10 days of the month. The company has not yet received the discount for the year ended 31.12.2024.</p> <p>2. The company has a contract with a supplier to purchase goods for the year ended 31.12.2024. The contract price is \$100,000. The company has not yet received the goods for the year ended 31.12.2024.</p> <p>3. The company has a contract with a customer to sell goods for the year ended 31.12.2024. The contract price is \$100,000. The company has not yet delivered the goods for the year ended 31.12.2024.</p> <p>4. The company has a contract with a customer to sell goods for the year ended 31.12.2024. The contract price is \$100,000. The company has not yet delivered the goods for the year ended 31.12.2024.</p> <p>5. The company has a contract with a customer to sell goods for the year ended 31.12.2024. The contract price is \$100,000. The company has not yet delivered the goods for the year ended 31.12.2024.</p> <p>6. The company has a contract with a customer to sell goods for the year ended 31.12.2024. The contract price is \$100,000. The company has not yet delivered the goods for the year ended 31.12.2024.</p> <p>7. The company has a contract with a customer to sell goods for the year ended 31.12.2024. The contract price is \$100,000. The company has not yet delivered the goods for the year ended 31.12.2024.</p> <p>8. The company has a contract with a customer to sell goods for the year ended 31.12.2024. The contract price is \$100,000. The company has not yet delivered the goods for the year ended 31.12.2024.</p> <p>9. The company has a contract with a customer to sell goods for the year ended 31.12.2024. The contract price is \$100,000. The company has not yet delivered the goods for the year ended 31.12.2024.</p> <p>10. The company has a contract with a customer to sell goods for the year ended 31.12.2024. The contract price is \$100,000. The company has not yet delivered the goods for the year ended 31.12.2024.</p>						



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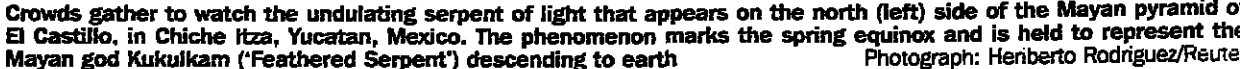
Zulu  
gunmen  
kill 11  
in attack  
on ANC

Cigars have become such a fashion craze in America in the last couple of years that demand, according to frustrated salesmen, is far outstripping

The magazine's publisher, Marvin Shanken, said that when he put out his first issue in the Autumn of 1992 he had hoped for a circulation of maybe 20,000. "It was a labour of love. I expected to lose money. And now look: for our latest issue we've done a print run of 335,000." How did he account for his success, for this sudden fascination with cigars? "Simple," Mr Shanken said. "It's enjoyable. It turns them on. It's a status symbol. Cigars convey an image of tradition, wealth, sophistication, the good life. A

Ferraris, Rolexes and beautiful women are coincidentally the images that adorn the advertisements in *Cigar Aficionado*. The articles contrive both to convey a sense that cigar-smoking is what the rich and famous do (Jack Nicholson appeared cheroot in hand on one of last year's covers) and to imbue

So how to reconcile Americans' obsessiveness with health with the cult of the cigar? Until a cancer cure is found, Big Smoking promises to be as lucrative for the medical profession as for the cigar industry. A doctor present as a non-smoking observer at the cigarfest, asked for his opinion, replied with a smile and a shrug: "It's good for business."



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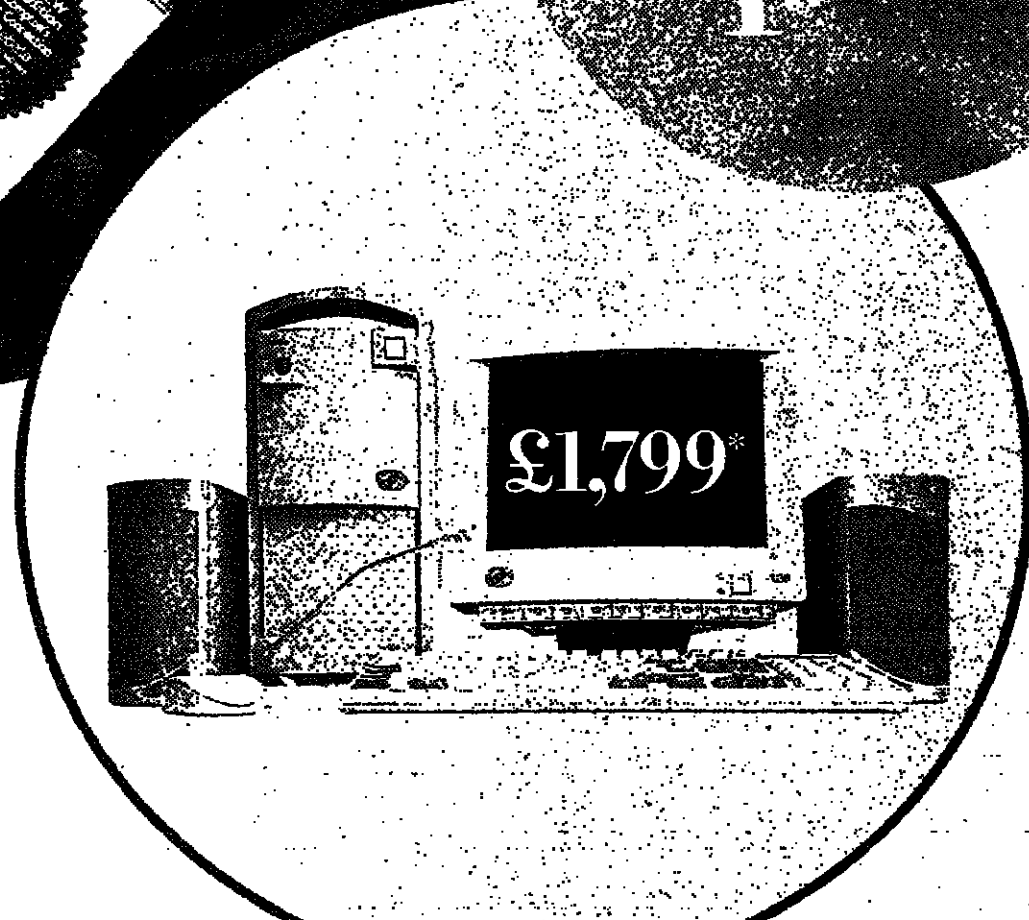


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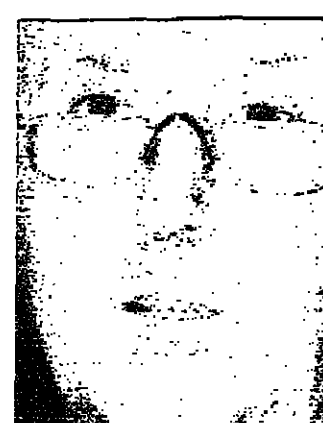
**Rob Will,  
CJD Surveillance  
Unit**

"My opinion has evolved enormously in two to three weeks"



**John Pattison,  
BSE advisory  
committee**

"It could be tens of thousands of cases and cumulatively it could be hundreds of thousands"



**Kenneth Calman,  
Chief Medical  
Officer**

Told Dorrell the grim news before going off to be knighted by the Queen

A discovery by a Scots doctor three weeks ago has set off one of the worst health crises this country has faced. An *Independent* investigation reveals how the nation's BSE nightmare came true

# Beefgate

This is the week a conscientious Calvinist Scots doctor destroyed the British beef industry.

Dr Rob Will has made the scientific study of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) his life's work. Since its inception in 1990, he has headed the Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease surveillance unit. It compiles detailed information on everyone in Britain who might have been suffering from CJD, to check for a link with "mad cow disease".

Three weeks ago he believed BSE presented "a remote theoretical risk" to people. Now he has changed his mind: as a result the beef industry faces ruin.

It was in the middle of February that Dr Will began to have suspicions that his earlier judgement was wrong. "It's not a flash of light. You build up evidence and then you reach a critical point where you say 'This is convincing'. My opinion has evolved enormously in the past two to three weeks," he explained.

On 8 December last year, in a long article in this newspaper, he wrote: "I do not believe it is reasonable to conclude that there is a significant risk from eating beef". This weekend he reflected: "I was unaware when I wrote the article of the 10 new patients with a new form of CJD for which it is only logical to consider a possible link with BSE. The evidence is really that recent."

Some of the patients with this distinctive, aggressive form of CJD are still alive. The majority of those who have died did so in the early months of this year, although there was one early case in 1994. When the cases emerged three things alerted Dr Will and his colleagues at the CJD unit at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh. First, the cases were among relatively young people; most victims of CJD are old. Second, their brain tissue displayed a distinctive disease pattern closer to the damage inflicted on a cow's brain by BSE than the damage normal CJD inflicts on humans. Third, these cases took 13 months to die rather than the normal six.

Dr Will's team set about their painstaking analysis. "We need full neuropathological information and genotype analysis. Post-mortems take a long time," Dr Will said. That was not enough, however. To rule out a genetic link or the possibility that the disease was related to the dead person's lifestyle, members of the unit travelled the country in the early weeks of the year to interview still grief-stricken relatives.

So it was that after an intense burst of scientific inquiry in February Dr Will and his colleague Dr James Ironside, who had conducted the pathological examinations of the brain tissue, decided they had to present their evidence to the Government's



A rare mess: the country's £500m beef export industry is at stake, but this is 'one of the most difficult health issues we have ever faced'

Philip Meech

Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee on Friday 8 March.

The 13-strong committee normally meets at a weekend, because its members, the country's leading experts in BSE and CJD, have busy research and clinical schedules. A senior member of the committee recalls that it met in sombre mood. "Ironside and Will said that at first they had thought the cases were linked only because the victims were young. But they checked with other cases involving young people abroad. They found nothing similar in the pathologies so they had to decide it was something new. Everyone around the table feared that it was related to BSE."

"We were all a bit glib. I mean, it had a frightening impact. But standing aside from that, it was a beautiful piece of work getting the full analysis in such a short time."

They have worked very hard."

It was after this meeting that Whitehall's nightmare began. Professor Sir John Pattison, the SEAC chairman, alerted Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer who tipped off his boss Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary. Pattison's team were told to reconvene the following Saturday, 16 March, to draw up recommendations about what should be done.

A committee member remembered that tense meeting: "We did consider requesting the destruction of the entire national herd. We considered the full spectrum of responses, including saying that the measures then in place were sufficient too. But we felt that there was a need to do more."

It also explored the possibility that BSE might have been passed to other farm animals and whether it might be passed from

them to people. On Monday Calman met Dorrell to tell him the grim news that the preliminary findings had been confirmed: a new strain of CJD had been found and the most likely explanation was BSE.

Dorrell could have pressed the panic button but one of those close to him explained: "He's a pretty cool guy and he reacted coolly. He knows there is a fine line between openness and panic. But he wanted it out in the open as soon as possible."

As a precaution, his press office had ordered the Department of Health's advertising agency, Ogilvy and Mather, to book space for an announcement in the morning newspapers on Thursday, to calm fears. There would also be a help line to stop the public jamming the Government's switchboards.

On Tuesday, Ogilvy and Mather executives came into the department to meet the head of the press office, Romilla Christopherson, at one time deputy to Bernard Ingham at Number Ten when Margaret Thatcher was in office.

It was the call to Ogilvy and Mather that led to the first leak of the story which appeared in *Campaign*, the advertising industry trade magazine. Its issue published at the start of the week said the agency had been called in to do an emergency campaign to calm public fears about "mad cow disease" after a Dorrell announcement.

As the Ogilvy and Mather team were closeted with Christopherson, SEAC had reconvened elsewhere in the Health Department's offices in Whitehall. Some of its members were in Paris; an open telephone line was set up for them to participate in the discussion.

By a strange coincidence, Calman was also due to visit Buckingham Palace to be knighted by the Queen. The Chief Medical Officer briefed Dorrell in his private office wearing a morning suit before rushing to the Palace. He made it with minutes to spare. The Prime Minister was briefed by Dorrell and Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister, in the course of the day. They agreed that they had to make a public statement the following day.

SEAC's debate went on till midnight. They finalised their recommendations early on Wednesday morning. The exhausted committee members decided to recommend that carcasses from cattle aged over 30 months should be deboned in specially licensed and supervised plants, that trimmings be kept out of the food chain; and that the use of meat and bone-meat from any mammals be banned from feed for any farm animals - a measure to stop BSE spreading to pigs or chickens.

But as the committee was at work, so was the *Daily Mirror*, where a diligent journalist had picked up the *Campaign* story. The *Daily Mirror* splashed it across its front page on Wednesday morning as Dorrell prepared to brief a cabinet meeting called to discuss election strategy.

Ministers spent an hour discussing the findings and the planned advertising campaign, which was to carry an assurance from the Chief Medical Officer that he would still eat beef as part of a balanced diet. They ordered it to be dropped. "The ads were killed five minutes before the button was pressed," said an advertising source.

Dorrell went on to make his fateful statement to the Commons, before going on to address a hastily arranged press conference. He was sombre, almost contrite. But the nightmare is not over. SEAC had not been able to give him a clear view on whether children could be at higher risk of contracting the new strain. So this weekend the SEAC team will meet again and Dorrell has another statement to make on Monday to the House. It could be one of the worst moments a health secretary has had to face since the Thalidomide scandal.

An SEAC member explained: "One of the senior people we presented the findings to said it's one of the most difficult health issues this country has ever faced. I think we'll probably know in the next six to 12 months if we don't see too many new cases then it could be all right. When I look at the papers I feel 'My God, we've cost the country a £500m export industry. I just wish I could crawl into a hole. But we're charged with making the decisions, and so we will.'"

## Jo Brand's week



This week is the 50th anniversary of Mind, the mental health charity, and recent research conducted by Mind itself shows that the number of people using mental health services is rising fairly rapidly. Mind has made a great contribution to easing the stigma felt by people who have mental health problems. The days are gone when you could pay your money and take a walk round your local asylum to have a look at all the mad people, but attitudes haven't changed that much. The general public still see those with mental health problems as dangerous objects, instead of people.

In my experience, most of those who are ill, even if they have a debilitating illness, have a wonderful logic to what they do. I remember a friend of mine, who was also a psychiatric nurse, telling me about a man she knew who had suffered from chronic schizophrenia, coming out of hospital and getting a job as a postman. He was a little nervous on his first day but determined to do the job. He picked up his mail, went to the nearest postbox and showed the whole lot in. He then went home and watched telly. Now that's what I call sensible.

The never-ending saga of poor old Florence Nightingale continues. Not only did none of the soldiers under her care want her to be in Scutari, but it now seems she knocked back some bromide, which is a drug given to soldiers to curb their sexual appetite. After taking the drug, she reports, she was so tired, she couldn't do anything. Well, at least we know it works. Perhaps we should start doling it out to men at work and give some women a break from the modern plague of office sexual harassers.

Poor old Frank Bruno. I have to confess I did stay up and watch the terrible battering that he got from Mike Tyson last week. All that completely over-the-top build-up for such a quick end. Mr Tyson seems somewhat confused at the moment. He has converted to Islam and yet he sports a huge tattoo of Mao Tse-tung on his arm, a man who certainly never supported religion of any kind. Still, all these things pale into insignificance, I suppose, when you are faced with the cannon ball that is Mike Tyson's fist. If that fight wasn't an advertisement for stopping people battering each other's brains into tomorrow, I don't know what was.

Apparently, four out of five people in this country can't understand the labels on bottles of suntan lotion. I find that difficult to believe. They're hardly on the level of Einstein's Theory of Relativity, are they? It's easier to believe that people choose to ignore them. After all, mad dogs and Englishmen and all that. What a great summer it's going to be this year. Thousands of roasting sunbathers, a third of whom are



Mad dogs: no notion of lotion

facing a drought as it is, because of the negligence of the privatised water authorities. I wouldn't be surprised if a plague of locusts finishes us all off.

Bosses in the supplies division of the NHS must be very pleased they are going to get whacking great payoffs when their jobs are axed, as yet another reorganisation goes ahead. I'm sure if someone had time to sit down and actually work out the amount of money that has been wasted in these constant reorganisations in the administration of the NHS, it would amount to a staggering sum. It would also be easier to swallow if anyone felt that the executives at the top of the NHS were actually doing a good job - but they're not. The experience of most people is that the whole service is falling apart because the goodwill of nurses and doctors has been exploited beyond belief. As a spokesman said, "There are always costs when you shed jobs." Yes, mate, but the costs are being carried by the people that can least afford it... ordinary people who deserve decent healthcare and not the shambles we've got at the moment.

And if a plague of locusts doesn't finish us all off, tuberculosis may well do. This disease, which a lot of us associate with a swooning Emily Brontë or Dickensian slums, is making a big come-back. It's mainly a

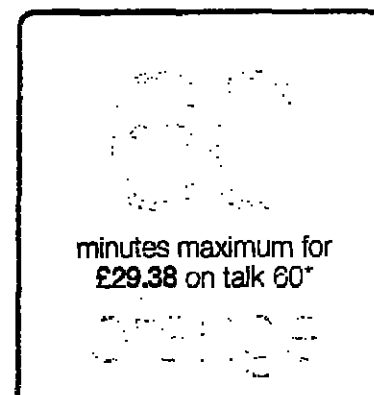
disease associated with poverty and demonstrates the gap that is opening up between the rich and poor. Certain new strains of TB are resistant to current antibiotics, so perhaps money needs to be put into research to stamp it out once and for all. That's if there's any money left after the NHS bosses have grabbed it.

So there's now a Supermodel Sindy range. Must rush out and buy one. Apparently there have been problems in the design of the dolls, particularly as far as Naomi Campbell is concerned. She sent one prototype back because the head was too big. (Are you sure?). How nice for little girls to have yet another set of dolls whose measurements most of them will never be able to live up to. Clandia Schiffer didn't like the colour of the hair on hers, but seems perfectly happy to accept the fact that it's got a ridiculous, famous expression on its face. These dolls are plastic and empty headed and have nothing to say for themselves. Not so different from the real thing, then.

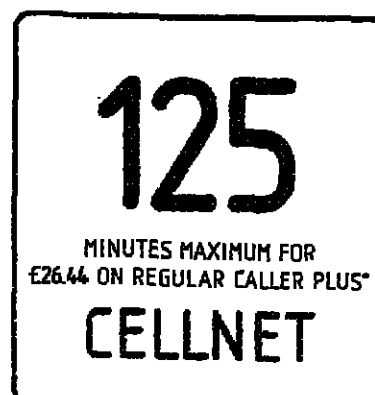


Naomi: never a doll moment

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# Living on the ledge: the random risk society

Perhaps it was those hamburgers you ate in 1987. But then a few hamburgers might not be enough. But how many plates of spaghetti bolognese did you eat in the late Eighties? Fifty, 100, 200? How much do you need to eat to catch it? And anyway, the scientists, their authority rapidly fading, might have got it wrong. Maybe scrapie is not the source of BSE. Perhaps it's organophosphates. That might mean BSE is still rampant, so beef you eat now might carry a risk of giving you the deadly Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

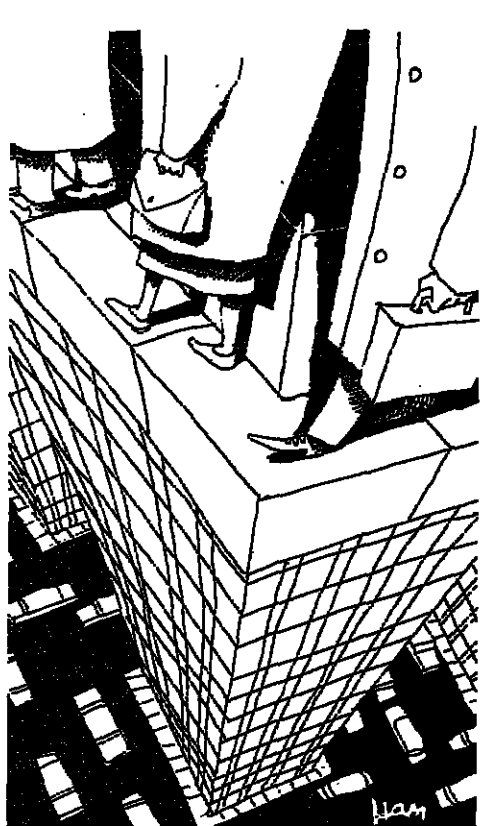
But how does the risk of catching CJD compare with other risks that beset us every day? It's so difficult to know how much to worry. The risk of dying from CJD is probably less than the risk of dying from smoking 10 cigarettes a day (one in 200) but more of a risk than being hit by lightning (one in 10 million). But are you at more or less of a risk from CJD than from dying of influenza (one in 5,000) or an accident of the road (one in 8,000) or while playing soccer (one in 25,000)? Who knows? Certainly not the scientists. The best guess that John Patison, head of the Government's advisory committee on BSE, could offer us was that there may in future be hardly any more CJD deaths linked to BSE - or there could be an epidemic.

This week, everyone is facing an unknown and barely calculable new risk of dying. Risk has become an inescapable part of our lives. There was a time when a risk was something you indulged in for a bit of excitement, a flutter on the side. A punt on the Grand National, a spin of the wheel - it was all meant to add a bit of spice to an otherwise orderly and predictable life. Even

when Mrs Thatcher preached to us that risk was something we could choose to take. In the insecure, uncertain Nineties, most of life seems to have become a flutter. We no longer choose to take risks, we have them thrust upon us. This week, our lives have become an experiment inflicted upon us by the beef industry, with absolutely nobody in charge of the laboratory. The most ordinary of decisions - which cut of meat should one buy - has become laced with life and death chance. Our society seems to have become riddled with random risks. Calculating and managing risks has become one of our main preoccupations. That used to be a specialist job for actuaries, insurers and scientists. Now we all have to engage in it, with whatever rusty tools we can lay our hands on - sometimes the calculator, sometimes the astrology columns.

The accelerating rate of economic change driven on by global competition has made life for virtually everyone more insecure than it used to be. Even relatively young, highly qualified graduates face the risk that their skills may become outmoded before they realise it. Few employers protect their employees against the risks of redundancy. Workers have to bear those risks themselves: more middle-class people are calculating how to insure themselves against the insecurity of their income.

Privatisation and constraints upon public spending are another source of higher risk for individuals. In the post-war period, the state took responsibility for organising collective insurance against many risks - ill health, bouts of unemployment, poverty in old age. Now, increasingly,



it's down to individuals to plan their personal health and pension plans; to calculate the risks for themselves and make their own decisions about how much to put by.

Yet the source of the most troubling new risks we face is something most of us would regard as unequivocally beneficial - our expanding knowledge. It is partly because we know more about the brain that we now know that people in a persistent vegetative state may be conscious and so should not have their life-support machines turned off. As scientific knowledge opens up new opportunities for us, it also makes the world more complex and unknowable, at least by any one individual. For instance, the technology now used to fly a plane across the Atlantic is probably beyond the understanding of any one person. As a result, the risk of a plane crash becomes more difficult to calculate. As technology races ahead, we are left behind panicking with ignorance, increasingly unable to understand or control the machines we depend upon and so less able to calculate the consequences of their going wrong. Environmental science has encouraged us to be less parochial and short-term in our thinking. We now worry about the consequences of our actions on future generations in far-flung places. But this admirable long-termism also makes it more difficult to calculate the risks of our decisions. What is the risk that your grandchildren's environment will suffer if you use that aerosol or your car too much?

The problem this leaves us with is not just one of calculating risks but taking responsibility for them. Take the grounding of the *Sea Empress* as an example - who among the owner, the agents,

the charterers, the crew, the pilot and the harbour master should have taken responsibility for making sure it did not run aground? How should a business, a worker and the state share the cost of insuring against the risks of unemployment in the global market? When new risks such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease arise, we blame politicians and demand they take action, but which of us seriously believes the hapless Stephen Dorrell is responsible for this crisis, other than in a purely totemic way? Politicians might pick up the can, but it hardly gets us anywhere. This week, the limited authority of scientists has also been exposed. Once they were confident BSE was not linked to CJD. Now they are not so sure. But for all their expertise, they cannot tell us how big the risk is or what we should do to guard against it.

What we need to cope better with life in a risk-prone society are information and openness from government and business so we know more about the risks we face, wider education to allow us to judge risks better and new mechanisms for sharing risks which overcome the drawbacks of both the traditional welfare state and private insurance markets. Perhaps the most important mechanism for ensuring ordinary citizens do not shoulder all the risks is consumer power to hold government and business to account for their actions.

The social thinker Professor Ulrich Beck of Munich University, author of a best-selling book in Germany called *The Risk Society* and a keynote speaker at an Institute of Public Policy research conference next week, has coined a term for the state we are in - organised irresponsibility. This week, that sounds all too accurate.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BSE: doubts over relevance of the link with scrapie

Sir: Until now the debate on BSE and CJD has been characterised by a lack of clear statements of the uncertainty basic on which most strategy decisions have been made.

Much strategy has been based on the assumption that BSE was derived from scrapie, an encephalopathy of sheep caused by "prion" infective agents. It was assumed that its properties have been maintained in cattle. The evidence that scrapie was the source of BSE is essentially that it is the only common form of prion disease in the food chain. However, any species with a prion gene (ie all known mammals) can mutate to produce an inherited encephalopathy and this would be potentially infective (this is true of the mutations causing human CJD). Cattle could themselves have been the source of the infection giving a new disease with no species barrier into cows and a debatable barrier into humans.

Despite these doubts over the relevance of scrapie, much was based on the fact that the agent would be scrapie-like. It was argued that, like scrapie, it would be unlikely to cross the species barrier.

Curiously, it was not argued that the pattern of infection

would be similar to that of scrapie, ie that there would be vertical transmission (mother to calf) or horizontal transmission (between unrelated cattle), the normal mode of transmission of scrapie. Presumably this was ignored in order to argue against an expensive slaughter policy in infected herds. In terms of a proposed slaughter policy, it is imperative to note that pasture that has carried infected sheep remains infective for some years after the sheep are removed. Slaughter alone does not eliminate scrapie.

The arguments about the efficacy of removing offal and hence eliminating the risk of transmission are based on the fact that muscle and milk contain very low amounts of infective agent, as measured by animal infection experiments. Relatively low numbers of animals are used in these experiments, but the "experiment" we have been conducting on the human population involves 60 million people, and it is not at all clear what level of disease low amounts of infective agent would produce in this target population.

While infected cattle are killed and burnt, this is only when they show recognisable symptoms. It is like the difference between Aids and HIV infection - the

asymptomatic phase provides the public health problem. Professor HUGH WOODLAND, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Warwick.

Sir: Beef sales will surely plummet even further this weekend as people heed the warnings over mad cow disease. But those who are truly concerned with keeping their family healthy would do better to avoid the meat aisle all together.

Meat eating has been conclusively linked with the nation's top killers - heart disease, stroke and certain forms of cancer. Ninety-five per cent of all food poisoning is caused by animal products, with salmonella, campylobacter, and e-coli bacteria killing hundreds of Britons every year. With tasty vegetarian food so widely available, is eating meat really worth these risks?

TONI VERNELLI, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, London NW1

Sir: Is the Government I see running to the European Commission to complain about France banning British beef the same Government which

not so long ago was protesting so viciously about the European Court of Justice?

Perhaps if Britain had kept its mouth shut more and accepted the rough with the smooth, we would not now be witnessing our European partners gleefully taking revenge for so many years of insults, slights and disruptive behaviour from Westminster and beyond. DAVID LUNGGREEN, London W1

Sir: With the recurring concern over the quality of beef and beef meat by-products and whether they are safe to eat, this is an ideal time to sit back, look at what we eat and try new dishes.

May I recommend venison as a replacement for beef. It is an extremely healthy meat with very low fat content and extremely tasty. G A YOUNG, Newbury, Berkshire

Sir: Now that the Government has been forced into the open about CJD, can we have honesty about another mad government disease, the effects on users of organophosphate sheep-dip?

HUGH MACKIE, Waterlooville, Hampshire

### 'Teach' marriage in schools

Sir: In her column (20 March), Polly Toynbee applauds divorce as "our century's great liberator". The only problem she sees with the staggering 158,000 divorces in 1994 is that economically, we have made no adaptation to divorce.

The solution, she suggests, is to create "a social and economic system that makes it possible for mothers both to earn and care for their children". Surely this is a contradiction in terms. No matter how much a mother could earn, someone else would be caring for her children. While the majority of child-minders are kind, loving individuals, can they really be expected to feel the same sense of responsibility for a child's emotional, intellectual and spiritual development as the parents?

In Britain today, 25 per cent of all children experience their parents' divorce before they are 16 years old. Research from Exeter University found that children from "re-ordered" families (those whose families had suffered separation and divorce) were twice as likely to

report health and self-worth problems, three times more likely to have school-work and social life difficulties, and four times more likely to have behavioural problems.

The interviewers found that children can cope better with their parents fighting and even with the death of a parent than they can with a parent leaving. In other words, in general, as far as children are concerned, a bad marriage is better than a good divorce. Surely, the solution is not to make divorce "easier" through the Family Law Bill, but to invest in marriage. Marriage education should form part of the curriculum for our schools. We need to focus on reconciliation rather than mediation by providing more funding for counselling for struggling marriages.

The married couples tax allowance, now worth £3.30 per week less to basic-rate taxpayers in hard cash than it was two years ago, should be substantially increased.

DOROTHY ADAM, Stirling

### Confusion over PVS and brain death

Sir: I have been following the debate on persistent vegetative state (leading article, 18 March).

As a nurse with 15 years experience of working in intensive care I feel it is extremely important to differentiate between brain death and PVS. In brain death there are no reflexes present and the patient does not breathe when off a ventilator despite raising the blood CO<sub>2</sub> in an attempt to stimulate respiration. Brain death tests follow strict criteria and are taken twice, 24 hours apart, by separate consultants. PVS patients can breathe

unaided and display at least basic reflexes, eg pupil reaction to a bright light; brain dead patients do not.

To confuse the two states is to cause extreme distress to relatives who may feel they should not have allowed treatment to be withdrawn following brain death, and also results in brain-dead patients remaining on ventilators until all body systems fail and also a fall-off in the availability of organs for donation, which is so valuable and often a comfort to bereaved relatives.

NEDA M. DESMOND, Eastbourne, Sussex

### ITN's coverage of Dunblane

Sir: Those who read Meg Carter's article "Public interest versus private grief" (19 March) might well have gained the impression that Lord Wakeham and Superintendent Louis Munn were critical of ITN's coverage of the Dunblane tragedy. This is certainly not the case.

Both would, in fact, have asserted that ITN's coverage was responsible and sensitive. Furthermore, Meg Carter suggests that TV approached relatives for "the almost instant TV interviews with the bereaved". That is, quite simply, not true. It would be contrary to our guidelines, which were endorsed rigorously throughout the time of the tragedy. I know the BBC and Sky adopted the same approach.

It should also be pointed out that the article was constructed of quotes which were taken from a variety of sources but not from speaking directly to either Lord Wakeham, Supt Munn or myself.

RICHARD TAIT, Editor in Chief, ITN, London WC1

### Elvira who?

Sir: Robert Cowan's protest (20 March) encourages me to air my pet musical irritation - the now routine nickname *Elvira Madigan* attached to Mozart's 21st piano concerto. Classic FM never fails to mention it and Radio 3 is not immune. It is too late to say that there is now a whole generation to whom the film *Elvira Madigan* means nothing? Like being told that another popular piece was once the signature tune for *Listen With Mother* - or should it now be *Grandmother*?

MARTIN SHAW, Leicester

### Honest greed

Sir: Your leader (19 March) criticises the re-formed Sex Pistols for being "happy to exploit commercial opportunism". Something you say they "led a generation to believe they disdained". In fact the band's original songs always celebrated their ability to make "cash from chaos". They called their 1979 film *The Great Rock and Roll Swindle* and it featured the running motif of a cash register clacking up how much they were earning from their inability to string two chords together. The Sex Pistols never claimed to be less money-grabbing than those that came before, simply more honest.

PAUL MOSS, London W11

## DAVID AARONOVITCH Babar's vision



Never mind your D'Arcys and Biggles; if there is any fictional character that I envy, it is Babar the Elephant. In his adventures, he is rescued from a circus by an older woman who buys him clothes, a nice sports car, and expedites his escape to a picturesque part of Africa. There he becomes king of the Elephants, defeating the Rhinoceroses in battle by the simple ruse of painting eyes on his followers' bottoms, thus scaring his enemies away.

But it isn't for his early success as an overweight toyboy or performance artist that I am pro-Babar. My fascination is with Babar the social engineer, the constructor of a New Order. On the banks of a flowing river, he builds the garden city of Celesteville, complete with public park, a palace of culture and hospital - all with its own town council.

Unfortunately, the Babar books neglect to inform students of political science which system of election the progressive pachyderm installed. But this week we may have had a glimpse of what it might have been. Imagine Celesteville divided into, say, 18 constituencies, each with five councillors. Different parties (representing the well-ordered strata of elephant society - artists, manual labourers, bottom painters, etc) would stand, and electors would make a single selection. Finally, to ensure minority groups (such as monkeys and flamingoes) are represented, each of the 10 parties with the most votes would get an extra two councillors.

This is, of course, the system proposed by John Major on Thursday for the election of a "peace forum" in Northern Ireland, and it looks good to me. True, unlike Celesteville council, the forum does not have a clear role. Some of its members will take part in talks leading to an eventual settlement, and many will not. But with truly Babar-in-a-wink, the Government recognises that they can play a role by meeting from time to time, and having a chat. About things.

Unaccountably, the jowly patriarchy of Ulster politics have not taken to the idea. It is messy, unprecedented and over-complicated, they complain. But surely, no system of itself guarantees wide choice. Few nations are more committed to (a) democracy and (b) Europe, than the Greeks, who invented both. Yet at the last (nicely proportionate) elections to the European Parliament, they voted for large-boned chanteuse Nana Mouskouri to represent them at Strasbourg, despite the fact that she admitted that she was only standing as a favour to a friend, and would never attend. "Personally, I have no interest in, or understanding of, politics," she said.

Conversely, are there many electoral processes as historically successful as that which selects a new pope - 120 cardinals gather in the Sistine Chapel, God guides them, they cast secret ballots, and when there is a two-thirds majority for one of their number, bingo, he becomes infallible. The only reforms in 2,000 years have been one to prevent bribery, and another, last month, to force cardinals to bring doctors' certificates with them (presumably to prevent God from making an expensive error). "Dottore Schmelz begs to reassure The Almighty that Cardinal Spinnotti will not soon be knocking at his door."

This proves that what is important is not the elegance of the system but the outcome. And I believe that the same will be true in Ulster, where the *plus-Babariste* aspect of the Major proposal means that the Natural Law Party - the smiling devotees who brought us yogie flying and other paths to enlightenment - will almost certainly be represented at the forum.

To appreciate the significance of this, cast your mind forward. The forum is in session. Paisley in the middle of a violent diatribe. Hume halfway out of the door. Trimble puce and trembling. Jowls are wobbling. Then, from the Natural Law corner, comes the soothing hum of a mantra. The rosin goes quiet, and Gerry Adams and Patrick Mayhew, legs tucked beneath them, levitate above the heads of the forum, slowly float toward each other and embrace in mid-air.

### QUOTE UNQUOTE

This is a dog's breakfast. But it is probably the only dog's breakfast on offer and it may well be the best dog's breakfast possible given the position the Government found itself in - Paddy Ashdown, Liberal Democrat leader, on the Ulster poll scheduled for May 30.

It does not seem to require any extra, sophisticated electronic equipment to achieve what can already be done by switching the set off - Harry Greenwood, Conservative MP, expressing doubts about the proposed V-chip in television.

This is one of the most disgraceful episodes in this country's history and I want a full inquiry into the Government's conduct and the way it has used and misused scientific advisers - Professor Richard Lacey, microbiologist, accusing the Government of risking public health over BSE in order to protect the farming community.

Never before have diseased ruminants (sheep) been fed to other ruminants (cows) and then fed to humans. We have interfered with the whole process of nature and what is now happening is one of our worst nightmares - Tim Lang, food policy professor, Thames Valley University, on mad cow disease.

Quiet! I'm trying to travel! - Maurice Lipman, who used to act in BT commercials, incensed by constant chattering on mobile phones by her fellow passengers on a train.

### A code called human rights

Sir: Andrew Marr (19 March) suggests there exists a code which abhors homophobia and rejects religious testings on hell and sin but which "we don't yet have a word for". The name he is searching for is the code of human rights.

Born in the Enlightenment, it came of age after the horrors of the Second World War. Then, the international community set out to establish a set of secular ethics in the form of international instruments which bind all states that ratify them. Often misunderstood as no more than a vehicle for protecting individuals from abuse of power by governments, these instruments are an attempt to influence the moral climate of society as a whole (see, for example, the recently adopted International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). Perhaps it is the failure of successive governments to incorporate these standards into our law or to require them to be taught in schools that accounts for our ignorance of them.

FRANCIS A. KLUIG, Policy Consultant, Charter 88, London EC1

### Off the rails

Sir: It is not true that the sale of Railtrack cannot be prevented (leading article, 20 March). For it to be sold there will have to be buyers, and who will come forward if they risk forfeiting their shares at the issue price in exchange for long-term low-interest bonds?

It is not just a question of losing a bit more of the family silver, but this privatisation would destroy all possibility of a coherent transport policy. Trains on privately owned rails will never compete with cars on publicly funded roads.

P J STEWART, Oxford



Giant tortoise in the Galapagos

### Support for the Galapagos Islands

Sir: Your article "A hit squad to save Darwin's paradise isles" (11 March) did an excellent job in appraising your readers of some of the very serious threats to the biodiversity of the Galapagos Islands, but at the same time it gave a misleading impression of the role of the Galapagos Conservation Trust, downplayed the role of the Galapagos National Park and omitted all mention of the Charles Darwin Foundation. The Galapagos National Park has done an excellent job over

the past 20 years to ensure the preservation of the Galapagos, it has been fighting an uphill battle and it has lacked both resources and political support. All conservation programmes in Galapagos are carried out by the National Park Service with the help and support of the Charles Darwin Research Station, which was set up in 1960 to advise the Ecuadorian government on the conservation of this most important of all national parks. The Galapagos Conserva-

tion Trust has been set up in the UK to help and support the Galapagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Research Station by raising awareness of and funds for the preservation of this truly wonderful archipelago. We will not, as the article implies, be making unilateral decisions, the main work and decisions will be for the Galapagos National Park to make with our full support and co-operation.

JULIAN FITTER, Chairman, Galapagos Conservation Trust, Shaftesbury, Dorset

### Comets are now more exotic

Sir: In relation to a brief new addition to the night sky, comet Hyakutake, Charles Arthur asserted that comets are

"frozen bodies of gas, liquid and rocks" (19 March).

Though this view was once held by the majority of scientists, it is now known to be erroneous. For new explorations of comet Halley show us that the material of comets is far more

exotic than Mr Arthur makes out. Some 30 per cent of the comet was found to be made up of extremely complex organic chemicals - the stuff of life itself.

K WICKRAMASINGHE, Cardiff

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## comment

## Vermeer's frozen time draws pilgrims

Andrew Marr explains why Britons are journeying to an exhibition in the Hague

This wintry spring, Holland has been a place of pilgrimage. Some 20,000 British, as well as 100,000 French, 40,000 Belgians and very many others have trekked to a small, cramped art gallery in the Hague. There, crammed together, they have passed by 22 smallish paintings, mostly of mundane domestic scenes, made more than three centuries ago by a man of whom we know little. Why? Because many, the lucky people, will experience something extraordinary, something they will never forget.

Vermeer is beyond explanation. Like all the great artists, what he did escapes words. There are very few Vermeers in the world. Of the 35 known, here are 22. The last time a similar number of Vermeers were gathered together was in May 1996 at a public auction in Amsterdam. The like of this exhibition may not be seen again for another 300 years.

Then there is the technical explanation, the description of Vermeer's daring techniques: his use of the camera obscura, and pins with threads to produce perfect perspective; the delicate washes and radical mixes of paint with grit to produce different surfaces; the complex and intellectual attitude to lighting. Vermeer is a risk-taking experimenter to delight in. He can use dribbles of pure colour (the scarlet lace in *The Lacemaker*) in a way that reminds one of Van Gogh or Jackson Pollock. His flicks of highlight on lips or rich Turkish carpets are as flashily brilliant as anything in Manet. His later short-hand treatment of cloth, dividing it into blocks of tumbling fabric, is positively Cubist. There is hardly a painting there which doesn't at this technical level provide shocks and gasps of delight.

Yet, just as the size of the exhibition is really a curatorial curiosity, so the technical descriptions of Vermeer are only a start. The point of the pilgrimage is the search for something that comes close to spiritual revelation. What Vermeer did, with paint, was to halt time. Watching his silent women by windows, pouring milk, reading letters or examining pearls, is like seeing moments of ordinary life seized, held fast and broken open, revealing some inexpressible mystery.

Sometimes the mystery is utterly sad, sometimes exhilarating. There is a painting from Brunswick of a drunk, leering woman being seduced - *The Girl with the Wine Glass*. It is a mundane enough scene. But stand in front of it and really look and it becomes a despairing image of vanity, a human moment stripped unbearably bare. In an entirely different mood is *Girl with the Red Hat*, a tiny thing, a luscious, dazzling moment of pure lust.

Then there's the famous *View of Delft*, which is a terrifying picture. The town is picked out in hyper-realist detail while above and below the clouds and shadows pour out of the frame toward the viewer. Change seethes around Vermeer's home town in a meditation about transience and extinction which cannot be properly described.

In Proust's *Remembrance of Time's Past*, the writer Bergotte

Despair is in contrast with luscious moments of pure lust

goes to a Parisian exhibition where, standing before this very painting, he is driven into a mystical crisis and deep despair while staring at a patch of yellow wall. "In a celestial pair of scales there appeared to him, weighing down one of the pans, his own life, while the other contained the little patch of wall so beautifully painted in yellow. He felt that he had rashly sacrificed the former for the latter." Bergotte, the atheist author, then dies. Well, the painting is still there and the wall is still yellow and the townscape is as awe-inspiring as ever.

Proust, who loved Vermeer, is the writer who comes nearest to his genius and to explaining the pilgrimage. He too was obsessed by the possibility of staring into unimportant-seeming moments of life with a gaze of such intensity that one breaks through into a different moment. The French writer and the Dutch painter were both working on the edge where artistic technique meets mystical experience. If music is time decorated, they were masters of time frozen. And that, in the end, is why so many people have been drawn to Holland.

## PROFILE: Stephen Dorrell

The BSE crisis has placed the Health Secretary centre stage. Mary Braid wonders if he will cope

Cushioned for months by the simple fact that he was not Virginia, Stephen Dorrell's lengthy honeymoon as Secretary of State for Health came to a dramatic, abrupt end this week.

Most people feel a morbid, human fascination with those poleaxed by fate just when everything was going rather swimmingly. There was the clever, confident Mr Dorrell getting on with the business of cleaning up after his unpopular predecessor, Mrs Bottomley - and no doubt occasionally allowing those thrilling predictions of future Tory leadership to flit naughtily through his mind - when mad cow disease (BSE) creeps up and taps him on the shoulder.

The announcement that there may, after all, be a link between BSE in animals and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) in humans - and speculation that it may claim as many as 500,000 lives - has scared the public. It has also shaken Mr Dorrell's political ambitions. In a relatively trouble-free ministerial career, he has never before faced a crisis on this scale. The next few weeks will be crucial for a man, who in 1994 was known to only 4 per cent of voters, but is now tipped for Number 10.

Of course there have been political difficulties before for the member for Loughborough, who gave up a career in his father's industrial overall business to become an MP in 1979. (His 20 per cent shareholding in the family business and his wife Annette's place on the board ensures an interest and income outside parliament.) First Mr Dorrell, at 27 the youngest of the 1979 intake, languished on the backbenches. Mentored by David Hunt, the former Welsh secretary, he was, both by association and in his own social policy ideas, too damp for Mrs Thatcher's liking.

But after becoming a junior health minister in 1990 he moved swiftly on and up to become Financial Secretary to the Treasury and then Secretary of State for National Heritage. There was that embarrassing occasion when Mr Dorrell revealed that he thought that Jeanne Moreau, the French actress, was a man. Some found it hard to forgive in a national heritage secretary who had already confessed he could not remember the last film he saw. His detractors sniffed that



Stephen Who? 'He hasn't got a big personality and that is a problem'

Tony Buckingham

## Enter the invisible man

he was just too middle-market and middlebrow bourgeois for the job.

But these are mere ripples compared to the current storm. The question is, can Mr Dorrell retain his legendary cool? His unfathomable - and dry sense of humour - was clearly demonstrated when his mother was recently splashed across the front of the local paper

quirming all week. He has refused to give a direct answer.

He gave an uncharacteristically poor Commons performance when he made his statement on BSE. "Once he started reading he didn't lift his head once," said one commentator. "He totally failed to see the human dimension. He forgot to say he realised that people would

low-key style. Until recently, Mr Dorrell regularly loop-the-looped in the skies over his Worcester home in his beloved Tiger Moth. But his devil side is an aberration: frequent comparisons of the minister to the clean-cut models that adorn Fifties knitting patterns are more in keeping with his personal style and political approach.

Mr Dorrell would talk at the notion of a Gummer-style photo opportunity involving his children. And the rather grave Mr Dorrell would have frowned had he inherited "Minister for Fun", the nickname given to David Mellor, his predecessor at heritage. If anything characterises Mr Dorrell it is, they say, "caution".

Even Stephen Dorrell's critics say he is "awesomely talented". Civil servants are full of praise for his command of his brief, management skills, courtesy and his loyalty.

One political commentator recalls Mr Dorrell's "impressive" return to the Department of Health last year. "Within a week he found himself in front of a health select committee. He had the standard ministerial brief in front of him but never had to open it once." However, Mr Dorrell shares John Major's "greyness".

"There is a touch of the civil servant in him. He hasn't got a big personality and that is a problem," says one political adviser. "Like Kenneth Clarke, he is a confident performer. Both men stand out in the political arena because they will concede points but go on to fight their corner. But Stephen Dorrell is Clarke without the high wire. He is safer, less exciting and less glamorous."

Mr Dorrell claims to enjoy being grilled by Jeremy Paxman. "He is an ideas politician," says one commentator. "He is there because he is interested in politics, not because of his ego. And he sees politics with an outsider's eye. He likes to talk to journalists to sharpen his arguments."

"But he will never be leader of his party. He is just too rational, reasonable and calm a man. He is not combative enough on TV to get the backbenchers' blood up."

Others do not dismiss him so readily. Chris Han, health economist and adviser to Dorrell, says that everything depends on how he handles his greatest crisis. What is certain is that Mr Dorrell, until recently virtually unknown, will never again be seen as the Cabinet's Invisible Man. BSE will make him or break him.

## Even Stephen Dorrell's critics say that he is 'awesomely talented'

objecting to the closure of an old folks home in which his father had died. Confronted by the picture of mum and her spaniel, he reportedly said: "Oh well, at least it is a nice picture of the dog."

Mrs Dorrell's latest media encounter may prove more testing. She revealed in the *Daily Mirror* yesterday that Mr Dorrell does not eat burgers and nor do his two young children. The question of whether he would feed beef to his own children has had Mr Dorrell

be anxious; that the news was worrying. He was clearly worried about how this would look in five or 10 years' time. He is a very ambitious man and he wants to cover and distance himself. His later statement that he didn't have a scientific opinion worth listening to on the subject was quite bizarre. It was a remarkable abdication of responsibility for a minister."

But admirers see the week's performance as a reflection of his preference for understatement and his

## When believers desert their church

Methodism, facing extinction, must learn the importance of not being earnest, says Andrew Brown

In a competitive world, it can seem unusually Christian of the Methodist Church to announce that it is dying; but dying, in an alarmingly literal sense, is what last week's membership figures mean. The church is losing members at a rate of 2.5 per cent a year; if these trends persist, it will have vanished altogether by the middle of the next century.

The problem for the church is not that its members are losing faith: the number who left over the past three years is only 2,000 greater than the number who joined. No, the members the Methodists are really missing will now find their faith is stronger than ever; unfortunately, that is because they are dead. More than 30,000 Methodists have died in the past three years, and their younger replacements are nowhere to be seen. Church membership under the age of 26 has fallen by a fifth in three years. It is possible to be precise about these figures because membership of the Methodists is by subscription. Their churches do not have the large, half-believing penumbra that surrounds Anglican or Roman Catholic membership figures.

Of course, the release of this week's figures was not meant as an invitation to other denominations to start stripping the remaining assets of Methodism. It was meant, in the words of one insider, "to give the church a fright", so that its members would do something about the problem. Extinction for the Methodists had been confidently prophesied in the Fifties and averted, so why should the threat be real this time?

The answer is a profoundly gloomy one, with implications for all the mainstream denominations in Britain. Methodism, it would appear, is dying out because it is boring. Unfortunately, it is no longer boring in ways that Methodists can be proud of. Boringness used to be one of the great strengths of Methodism. It started as a frighteningly exciting mass-movement of the poor and dispossessed, but, within a generation, the poor who became Methodists stopped being so poor. They became sober, industrious, trustworthy, and so, by degrees respectability of those who know that an abyss of poverty and shame lies close beneath them. It is a process that continues to this day as protestantism advances in Latin America and Eastern Europe.

In England, it produced a serious, instantly recognisable, deeply rooted class of methodists,

excluded perhaps from the higher reaches of the establishment, but hugely important in the provinces. Mrs Thatcher was brought up a Methodist. The people some of us came to London to escape were Methodists.

In other words, they might be boring, but they mattered. Methodism had become the natural expression of the spiritual dimension of a distinct and recognisable class. What made it boring or repellent to some people was solidity, not vapidly. And the other large Christian denominations were also embedded in a recognisable matrix. Irish working-class Catholics or Anglican old maids cycling to communion down misty country lanes both represented religions tightly established in particular social and economic roles.

This was enormously important because reli-

gions only exceptionally spread by force of argument, or by conversion. Their most effective means of transmission is by osmosis. It is a great mistake of modern secular talk to assume that religions are primarily about belief, when they are actually about practice and ritual. You are not converted to a faith - you grow up in it, without noticing that this is happening.

So religions that established themselves and put down roots in particular parts of society are very vulnerable to social change. Whether "family values" are integral to Christianity (and Jesus himself said some fierce things against families), they are certainly helpful for its transmission. The precipitous decline of the Roman Catholic church in this country is largely a function of its conversion from a working-class

religion to a middle-class one, with smaller, less stable families. However, Catholicism has a solid core of doctrine that makes it attractive to intellectual converts. Though there still are distinctive and shrewd Methodist intellectuals, it is not a system of thought. When Mrs Thatcher made the shift from attending a Methodist chapel to an Anglican church, this was a social move, not a doctrinal one.

One Anglican priest who, like Mrs Thatcher, was a Methodist until he arrived at Oxford, said that he had left because of "the frightful loquacious earnestness of Methodists. I suddenly realised it was possible to be a Christian without being earnest." This was hardly a doctrinal shift. However, it does suggest ways in which the virtues that act as ropes and pitons to hold you above the abyss of poverty and shame can come to seem cramping when the abyss recedes.

This is all part of a wider pattern. The United Reform Church, itself formed from a merger of smaller congregationalist bodies, is shrinking almost as fast as the Methodists, and hopes for salvation by union with them. The Methodists, in turn, seem to have no real long-term strategy beyond union with the Church of England - but that body, too, is facing similar problems and for similar reasons. In all these churches, there are success stories, but these are local, and decentralised. People do join, even if fewer join than leave and die; and techniques for attracting new members are being developed.

In America, of course, churches have gained strength from social disruption by becoming social centres themselves. Some churches are doing that in this country now. The most successful modern evangelical technique is the Alpha course, developed at Holy Trinity Brompton, an enormously rich Anglican church in central London, whose methods have been widely adopted elsewhere.

Alpha is a course for modern, mobile and rootless people. It is taken in groups over a 10-week period, and includes a residential weekend. To outsiders, it can look like brainwashing; it is certainly as much an introduction to *belonging* among Christians as it is to holding particular beliefs. But if the decline of Methodism lends itself to any moral, this is surely that churches are more vigorous when they are frightening than when boring.



John Wesley, founder of Methodism, on his death-bed

Mary Evans Picture Library

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IND 1



# obituaries / gazette

## Alan Ridout

Alan Ridout could have succeeded in almost any walk of life. His outstanding intellectual ability coupled with enviable self-discipline would have ensured a rise to the height of any profession he chose, but from an early age there was no question in his mind but that his life should be devoted to music.



Ridout drawn by Joy Finzi

Before he knew that such a thing as composing existed he heard music in his head, and by the age of 12 had written over 100 works. His mother was a vital force in his musical education (and in his life) and it was she who, in the face of fierce opposition from his father, headed the advice of musical friends and arranged for him to have piano lessons when he was nine years old. By the age of 12 he had reached Grade Eight in the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examination which he passed with distinction, and at 15 he was allowed to leave Haberdashers' Aske's School, then in Hampstead, and study music full-time at the Guildhall School of Music. In his autobiography, *A Composer's Life* (1965), he refers to this as the happiest day of his life, for he had known from early childhood that all he wanted to do was write music.

The Guildhall syllabus opened up a new world to the young musician. However, he was disappointed with the composition lessons and in desperation sent a set of variations for obit and string orchestra to Benjamin Britten with an appeal for help. The reply was encouraging, and taking the advice 'At 15 one can learn something from everyone' he heard Ridout spent nearly two years at the Guildhall. (Many years later he was to write a piece for Peter Pears in which Gerald Moore accompanied him.)

In 1951 he was offered a place at the Royal College of Music. Here he studied piano with Thornton Lofthouse and composition with Gordon Jacob, a teacher for whom he had tremendous respect, and Herbert Howells, whose music meant much to Ridout in later life.

Before leaving the college he took extramural lessons in composition from Peter Racine Fricker and while teaching near Tunbridge Wells, through a

chance conversation with his barber, he met Sir Michael Tippett, under whom he also studied. In 1958 a Netherlands Government Scholarship gave him the opportunity to study with the composer Henk Badings, who introduced him to the electronic techniques of composing as well as a wide variety of contemporary European music.

Ridout was asked to give composition lessons to the choristers at Canterbury Cathedral, commissioned Ridout to write a piece for the cathedral choir. Out of this commission came a collaboration, founded on mutual admiration, that blossomed into a period of intense creativity centred around the cathedral choir, choral society and the organ. At the suggestion of the Rev David Marriott, then headmaster of the choir school, Ridout was asked to give composition lessons to the choristers. In the early 1970s, after the closure of the choir school (to which he was vehemently opposed), Ridout joined the music staff at the King's School, Canterbury, where he had amongst his colleagues Edred Wright, Col Paul Neville and Barry Rose. His genius for inspiring and nurturing talent will never be forgotten by those who were lucky enough to be his students.

Ridout was an immensely prolific composer and a complete list of his works soon to be published will run to nearly a hundred pages. Commissions were many and varied. For David Willocks and the Cambridge University Music Society, a wind symphony (*The Adoration of the Magi*); for the BBC, an opera based on the Icarus legend; for Kent Opera *The Pardoners' Tale* and a children's opera, *Angelo*; and in 1965, the music for the Royal Maundy Service at Canterbury.

Ridout enjoyed collaborating with individual instrumentalists and his associations with Paul Davis and James Bowman were especially fruitful. He met Bowman in 1970 and his extraordinary voice inspired many important works including a setting for countertenor solo, chorus and wind of Wilde's *Ballad of Reading Gaol*.

Ridout's fluency led to a vast number of concertos for solo instruments with piano or string accompaniment often written especially for students or friends. He wrote for performance and his works gave as much joy to those who performed them as to those who listened: it is not insignificant that he is familiar as a composer to many amateur musicians throughout the country.

Joy and humour pervaded so much that he wrote and it is fitting that his last major work,

commissioned by the Three Choirs Festival and performed at Hereford in 1994 and again at York Minster only a few months ago, should have been *A Canticle of Joy*, a deeply moving consummation of his life's work.

Alan Ridout's effervescent and spontaneous humour was irresistible and he was unceasingly kind and generous to his friends and to other composers and artists. He was like the best parts of each member of one's family rolled into one; having the wisdom and authority of a father, the love and encouragement of a mother and the closeness of a brother. He was observant of life's problems but never intrusive; his help, advice and support knew no bounds. His understanding of human nature gave him the insight to know when he was most needed and the clarity and soundness of his advice grew out of a life of intense observation which began in his earliest childhood.

His passions in life spread beyond music to art, architecture, food, and, in later life, travel and in all of these his taste was totally individual and often unconventional, being guided by a profound knowledge of his subject and a confident instinct that was invariably right and always refreshing. (Except perhaps in food, where his tastes erred towards the bizarre. He found Mars Bars irresistible and would consume quantities of them throughout a day. I was with him in France recently and before catching my boat we looked for a restaurant for lunch. Surrounded by the best that Brittany could offer he chose a Chinese establishment and we ate food that could have been found in any high street in England. Perhaps he was homesick.)

He opened people's eyes to aspects of their chosen subject that they had passed over and often drew one's attention to something that had suffered at the hands of the popularists. His great sadness at the death of Leonard Bernstein stemmed from an admiration for a musical polymath whose career had encompassed every aspect, resulting in his dismissal by some as being no more than a showman. Ridout had no time



Ridout: a prolific composer and a man of profound but original faith

for pomposity or snobishness in any walk of life.

He had a profound but original faith and was deeply religious; his conversion to Catholicism in 1994 seemed a logical progression for him. Whilst staying with his publisher, June Emerson, in Ampleforth, he felt a magnetism towards the Roman Catholic Community at Ampleforth Abbey and it was there that he was received into the Roman Catholic Church, being made an oblate of the order of St Benedict soon afterwards.

After a serious heart attack

in 1990 when he was told that he could not expect to live for more than two years he decided to move to France, something he had always wanted to do. He found France and the daily courtesy and consideration of the French conducive to the life he wanted to live. He settled in Vitre, a town he had known for many years, and recently moved to Caen.

Peter Miall

Alan Ridout, composer, born West Wickham, Kent 9 December 1934; died Caen, France 19 March 1996.

## Claude Bourdet

On 31 March 1956 French security police came to arrest Claude Bourdet.

He was taken first to the prison of La Santé, then to Fresnes. He was finally taken to some barracks where a magistrate prepared to examine him. "It's curious," Bourdet remarked, "but it's exactly the same as last time. First to Santé, then Fresnes. You've followed the same route as the others." "What do you mean, the others?" asked the magistrate, frowning. "Why, the Gestapo, of course," replied Bourdet. "You must have heard of them." The magistrate went white with rage. Bourdet thought he was going to hit him.

In 1956 Bourdet was arrested because he had written an article attacking the policies of the French government in Algeria. He was accused of demoralising the army. In March 1944 it was as a leader of the Resistance that he was arrested, deported to Oranienburg, and from there to Buchenwald. The irony of the 1956 incident was that the orders for his arrest came from two former companions of the Resistance, Bourges-Maunoury, the Minister for Defence, and the head of his private office, Louis Mangin, who had been sent from London by de Gaulle to occupy France.

Thus Bourdet was able to contemplate to what extent the forces that had been united against the Germans had become disunited. The 1956 arrest was not important, Bourdet being released within hours of his arrest, which had caused a wave of protests. But 30 years later, he was still recalling the sadness that it had caused him. What he considered to be the best in France had become divided, hostile to each other, enemies.

Yet all his life he had contemplated such divisions and had, in no small way, himself contributed to them. In the autumn of 1940, Henri Frenay, a distinguished young officer who was humiliated by the defeat, began to organise patriotic groups in the south of France. Claude Bourdet joined with enthusiasm, and in May 1941 Frenay appointed him the leader of the network in the departments of the Alpes-Maritimes and the Var. The south was not occupied by the Germans, so the task of the Resistance was not so much fighting as propaganda. At this Bourdet and his associates were remarkably successful. From December 1941 onwards their main publication became *Combat*, which grew from some 5,000 copies an issue to some 150,000. Their Resistance network adopted the name of its newspaper.

But there were many problems within the Resistance movements. Frenay believed that Pétain, the hero of Verdun, could save France. Bourdet, in long walks along the quays of Marseilles, persuaded him that they had nothing to hope from him. Then there were the Communists. Bourdet was reluctant to co-operate with them, and fearful of their future dominance. Most famous of all were his suspicions of de Gaulle and London, his contempt for those who knew nothing about Resistance work giving orders to those who had gained vast experience and knowledge.

This last led him to be less than enthusiastic about Jean Moulin, who was charged by de Gaulle with unifying the dif-

ferent Resistance groupings. But he never wavered in his conviction that the aim of the Resistance was to create a new France, one which would be modern and progressive.

Bourdet's father was Edouard Bourdet, a highly successful dramatist; his mother, Catherine Pozzi, a poet with a famous salon. With their divorce, Bourdet studied in Zurich as an engineer. Having become bilingual in French and English through his English nanny, he became trilingual with German attached. As a left-wing Catholic he supported the Popular Front, and from 1930 he was attached to the economics minister, Charles Spinasse, who disappointed him by being one of the socialists who voted full powers to Pétain in July 1940.

On Bourdet's return to France in 1945 he was elected deputy to the first Constitutive Assembly and was for a time in charge of national broadcasting. But his future was in political journalism. He succeeded Albert Camus in the peace-time *Combat* newspaper, but quarrelled with the owner, and left in order to be one of the founders of the weekly *France-Observateur*, an independent left-wing publication with great influence.

I first met Bourdet when I was a student at the Ecole Nor-



Bourdet: for a better world

Photograph: Hulton Deutsch

male Supérieure in 1948, when he came to denounce the war in Indo-China. He told me that he had great hopes of the Labour government in England, and believed that it would become the leader of a united socialist Europe. In 1957 he came to Birmingham University to speak of French misdeeds in Algeria. His English was perfect but dated. It was curious to hear such a militant speaking the language of Bertie Wooster. His visit was a great success.

He continued his campaigns. Against de Gaulle in 1958; in favour of the Third World; working for a new independent socialist party; in opposition to a Europe dominated by capitalism and Germany. Some said that he was the sort of man who would drive his car in order to give help, but would knock an innocent bystander down as he did so.

Others saw him as the stalwart defender of justice, the tireless believer in a better world, a man of outstanding honesty.

Douglas Johnson

Claude Bourdet, journalist and resister, born Paris 23 October 1909; Founder and Editor, *France-Observateur* (now *Le Nouvel Observateur*) 1950-63; books include *L'Adventure incertaine* 1975; married 1935 Ida Adamoff (two sons, one daughter); died Paris 20 March 1996.

## Professor C. B. Perry

C. B. Perry was appointed as the first full-time Professor of Medicine in Bristol University in 1955. He spent much of his professional life, which stretched over more than 30 years, in combating the causes of rheumatism and cardiac disease, particularly in the young.

At the time of his appointment, acute rheumatism was a common disease of young people. It was said to "lick the joints that bite the heart". The phrase was coined to describe the fleeting but immediately apparent pain caused to the joints by the disease, by contrast with its more serious long-term effects on the heart. In the first half of this century, chronic rheumatic heart disease was one of the largest killers of young people, often causing death from heart failure in the early twenties, and offering little chance of survival past 40.

In the 1930s, there was an outbreak of streptococcal throat infection at Clifton College, a



Perry: treating heart disease

qualified with honours in 1926. He undertook, with Dr Carey Coombes at Bristol, some pioneering postgraduate research into myocardial infarction, a common cause of heart attacks, investigating coronary disease, at that time a relatively new area of research.

First and foremost, Perry was an excellent doctor. He

maintained a conservative attitude to new medical treatments for his patients at Bristol, preferring a method to be thoroughly tried and tested before he would agree to put it into practice.

He was also concerned with the success of the university as a whole, and not just that of the medical school. He served as Vice-Chancellor from 1958 to 1961, and was made an Honorary Fellow in 1986. He was involved in the building of the student union in 1965, the maintenance of an excellent student health service and the rebuilding and expansion of the medical school in 1960.

His patients, particularly children, loved him - they quickly saw through his abrupt manner and realised he had an inner kindness. His students respected him as a brilliant lecturer and bedside teacher, though they feared him as an examiner. His professional colleagues admired him, although

like all determined men, he did not suffer fools gladly.

With the advent of the National Health Service in 1948 he also became a powerful influence in medicine in the south-west region and in the affairs of the Bristol Royal hospitals. He was closely involved with the Royal College of Physicians, serving as President from 1961 to 1962 and was a censor (one of the main examiners for the college) from 1962 until 1964.

Perry was fascinated by local history, and wrote a book on the history of the Royal Infirmary, entitled *The Bristol Royal Infirmary 1904-74* (1981). He had a particular interest in Edward Jenner, the Gloucestershire GP who had introduced vaccination against smallpox. Perry helped to establish the Jenner Trust and Museum, at Barclay, and published a biography, *Edward Jenner*, in 1986.

After his retirement in 1969 Bruce Perry continued his interest in the university and the

Royal College of Physicians. He and Jo, his wife of 66 years, travelled a great deal. He was a keen gardener and had a large garden with a paddock where he kept bees; his friends were all given honey for Christmas. We would also be invited to hay-making parties. Following the recent death of his wife, Perry continued to live alone and resisted supervision by his daughters. He was still baking his own bread a few days before he died.

D. R. Coles

Charles Bruce Perry, physician, born 11 November 1903; physician, Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children and Women 1928-30; physician, Winford Orthopaedic Hospital 1930-33; Assistant Physician, Bristol General Hospital 1933-35; Professor of Medicine, Bristol University 1935-69 (Emeritus); married 1929 Jo Harvey (deceased; three daughters); died Bristol 12 March 1996.

## Births, Marriages & Deaths

### DEATHS

**BOTTLE:** On 21 March, Margaret, nee Poulton, of Edward House, Cambridge, aged 89, Much loved and much missed. Requiem Mass, at Little St Mary's Church, Cambridge, on Tuesday 2 April, at 2pm, followed by cremation.

**DUFFY:** James Patrick, Passed away at St James Hospital, Leeds, on 20 March, aged 74. Much loved and much missed. Requiem Mass, at St. Mary's Church, Leeds, on 23 March, at 10pm. Burial at St. Mary's Church, Leeds, on 23 March, at 11pm. Flowers may be sent to the Priory Chapel of St. Mary's and Son, Lupton Avenue, Leeds LS9 9EF.

### Announcements for Gazette Births, Marriages & Deaths

Advertisements for Gazette Births, Marriages & Deaths. Births, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3PL, telephoned 0171-293 2011 or faxed 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). Please include a daytime telephone number.

### Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. Deroon and Miss P. Krishnan. The engagement is announced between Pramila Krishnan, of Bangalore, India, and Sietan Deroon, of Leuven, Belgium.

### Birthdays

**TODAY:** Professor Harry Allen, Emeritus Professor of American Studies, University of East Anglia, 79; Mr Mike Atherton, cricketer, 28; Mr Norman Bailey, baritone, 63; Sir Roger Bamfield, neurologist and former Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, 67; Mr Wasim Bari, former Pakistan cricketer, 48; Mr Bryan Bosh, former Headmaster, City of London School, 62; Mr Alan Bleasdale, playwright, 58; Mr Geoffrey Bush, composer, 76; Mr Geoffrey Clayton-Miller MP, 43; Mr Barry Crier, writer and comedian, 61; Professor Patrick Dowling, Vice-Chancellor, Surrey University, 57; Mrs David Gilmore, former chairwoman, Building Societies Commission and chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, 59; Mr Peter Gurney, former senior partner, Ernst and Whinney, 72; Professor Kenneth Gregory, London, Goldsmith's College, 60; Mr Sir Akira Kurosawa, film director, 86; Sir Geoffrey Leigh, chairman, 80; Sir John Properties, 83; Sir David McNee, former Commissioner, the Metropolitan Police, 71; Mr Michael Matser, architect, 67; Mr Andrew Miller MP, 47; Mr Andrew Mitchell MP, 40; Mr Alfred Morris MP, 68; Mr Michael Nymman, composer, 52; Sir Ralph Partridge, former Lord Mayor of London, 91; Sir Desmond Pichey, chairman, North West Water Group, 61; Mr John Rowe QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court, 60; Miss Cindy Shelly, actress, 39; Mr Oliver Sherrard, racehorse

trainer, 41; Sir Ian Todd, consulting surgeon, St Bartholomew's Hospital, 75; Sir Edward Warner, former diplomat, 85; Sir Denis Wright, former diplomat, 85.

**TOMORROW:** Air Chief Marshal John Allison, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Logistics Command, 55; Mr David Atkinson MP, 56; Mr Roy Berridge, former chairman, South of Scotland Electricity Board, 74; Miss Barbara Day, make-up artist, 51; Dame Jane Drew, architect, 85; Mr Robert Fox, the athletic producer, 44; Mr James Fox, Andrews QC, former circuit judge, 74; Mr Archie Gemmill, footballer, 48; Mr Richard Gondano, chairman, British Gas, 62; Mr Wilson Harris, novelist, 75; Mr Basharat Hassan, cricket umpire, 52; Professor John Hedgecoe, Emeritus Professor of Photography, Royal College of Art, 59; Mr David Jewell, Master, Halesbury College, 62; Sir John Kendrick, former President, St John's College, Oxford, 79; Miss Sonia Lannaum, athlete, 40; Sir Peter Leach, former chairman, Commonwealth Development Corporation, 65; Mr Benjamin Luxon, baritone, 59; Mr Patrick Mahabadi, actor, 51; Sir Peter Meinertzhagen, former general manager, Commonwealth Development Corporation, 76; Mr Gene Nelson, dancer, actor and director, 78; Miss Suzanne Norwood, former circuit judge, 70; Professor Dorothy Severin, Gilmore Professor of Spanish, Liverpool University, 54; Mr Alan Sugar, chairman of Amstrad, 49; Professor Harry Whittington, geologist, 80; Mr Peter Winfield, former senior partner, Healey and Baker, 69.

### Anniversaries

**TODAY:** Births: Roger Martin du Gard, novelist and playwright, 1881; Joan Crawford (Lucille Le Sueur), actress, 1914; Donald Malcolm Campbell, land and water speed

### record holder, 1921. Deaths: Stendhal (Marie Henri Beyle), novelist, 1842; Raoul Dufy, painter and designer, 1953; Peter Lorre (Laszlo Löwenstein), actor, 1960. On this day: the marriage of Catherine of Aragon to King Henry VIII was declared valid by the Pope, although in 1533 he had married Anne Boleyn. 1534: Adolf Hitler became dictator of Germany, 1933; the Archbishop of Canterbury visited Rome and met the Pope, 1980. The meeting between the two churches for 400 years. 1966: Today is the Feast Day of St Benedict the Hermit, St Ethelwald the Hermit, St Joseph Oriol, St Tullius of Lima and St Victorian.

**TOMORROW:** Births: William Morris, socialist, artist, poet and typographer, 1834; Terrence Steven (Steve) McQueen, actor, 1939; Deaths: Queen Elizabeth I, 1603; Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, poet, 1882; Jules Verne, novelist, 1905; John Miltonington Sykes, playwright, 1909; Cristobal Balenciaga, couturier, 1972; Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery, first Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, 1976; Ernest Howard Shepard, artist and illustrator, 1976. On this day after King James I of England, James VI of Scotland ascended the throne of England, the English and Scottish crowns were united, 1603; the University Boat Race between Oxford and Cambridge ended in a dead heat, 1877; the national leaf was introduced into Britain, 1942. Today is the Feast Day of St Aldhelm, St Catharine of Valdeina, St Ireneus of Sirimium, St Simon of Trent and St William of Norwich.

### Lectures

**TODAY:** National Portrait Gallery: Valerie Holman, "Modernism and Inherited Traditions in 20th-century Portraiture", 3pm.

## Bricks and mortar and a sacred space

### faith & prison

The exodus to Rome by disaffected Anglicans has hit a snag. They want to take their buildings with them.

In the original exodus, Moses had a hard time persuading the Israelites to leave Egypt, and that was when they only had tents to worry about. A large Victorian Gothic pile is less easy to transport. Nevertheless, people cannot bear to leave them behind. This problem throws an interesting light on what exactly are the essentials of the faith.

At St Stephen's, Gloucester Road, in Kensington, London, Canon Christopher Colven and 35 of his congregation think they might have a solution. After Easter, they are going down the road to be received into the Roman Catholic Church. The next day, they are coming back again. The diocese of London has agreed to their using the parish church for Roman Catholic masses on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. The part of the congregation which is staying on will continue to keep Sundays to themselves.

At Holy Trinity, Hoxton, in east London, the diocese has been willing to go one step further, by declaring the church redundant and leasing it to the Roman Catholics. That way, Fr Stuart Wilson and the 40 of his congregation who went over to Rome earlier this month could have stayed put. The Romans declined, not wanting any more churches in the East End - which must have been a relief to the 35 or so members of the congregation who have chosen to remain Anglicans.

All will be well now. The diocese is sure to find a priest who is happy to take over at St Stephen's and work alongside his predecessor, and plenty of priests will be glad to move to Holy Trinity, to minister to half

the Church's anti-aestheticism (not to be confused with asceticism). What matters is the spiritual communion between worshipper and a God who is spirit.

This sentiment rings a little false in a Church which has billions of pounds invested in church buildings. Of course the buildings are important. Only look at how impossible it is to get people to agree to even the most modest rationalisation, if it entails closing down or even reducing the use of their church.

It is optimistic to uproot a seedling and expect it to take in another location. When a post office is closed down, the Royal Mail can be sure that its customers will buy their stamps somewhere else. Not so a church, under such circumstances, many people simply depart, never to return.

The pull of a particular building is hard to explain. I once attended a post-war church not far from Holy Trinity. From the outside, it looks like a swimming pool. Inside are some pretty stunning murals, but it still resembles a municipal badminton hall. Except for some insignificant stained-glass windows high up on the walls. To be praying, and find a stain of coloured light on your hand, or your sleeve, was extraordinarily moving.

Those who are tuned into these things talk about sacred space. The suggestion is that the bricks, mortar and stone are not important in themselves; but they frame a shape of air. These are motionless bits of the world, rare places where prayers can be held and not blown away, where God can dwell and be encountered. Light, colour, smell, order and the texture of sound, more precious, to many, than denominational ties, cannot be easily parcelled up and carried away.





## business

Figures at close of business 21/3/96

## Foreign Exchange Rates

Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.5373	8.6	25-22	1000	1.00	—	—
Canada	2.0544	11.3	50-37	1387	2.1	2.0	0.0284
Australia	2.2295	32-45	147-63	14763	26-24	78-75	10000
France	77.807	181-11	389-338	32659	37-64	170-12	342464
Italy	339.55	75-90	221-226	105.54	45-44	136-103	72.935
Japan	163.78	75-74	235-236	105.54	45-44	136-103	72.935
ECU	12.238	5-11	45-40	12.561	7-8	23-25	0.5333
Belgium	46.619	12.9	34-29	30.265	58-48	172-147	205.416
Denmark	8.7627	138-95	411-37	57.000	60-40	175-125	3.8910
Netherlands	2.5289	63-54	189-178	16.816	32-29	96-91	1.087
Ireland	0.7871	9-5	25-23	157.38	3-6	8-10	0.4288
Norway	0.8642	116-64	329-333	8.490	42-17	10-40	4.3464
Spain	160.76	29-48	117-94	130.09	32-36	97-105	840.480
Sweden	10.235	9-5	23-24	8.6860	98-123	260-310	4.5089
Switzerland	12.560	66-58	200-188	12.853	37-34	111-105	0.0909
Australia	0.7871	9-5	25-23	157.38	3-6	8-10	0.4288
Hong Kong	1.0880	10-11	67-65	12.238	5-11	45-40	12.561
Malaysia	3.8125	0-0	0-0	25.450	4-4	80-80	1.7239
New Zealand	2.2265	43-57	133-56	14.548	3-2	89-90	0.0854
Saudi Arabia	5.7655	0-0	0-0	3.7504	2-7	9-14	2.5404
Singapore	2.8884	0-0	0-0	1.4105	41-30	103-88	0.9554

## Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	15378	10000	Nigeria	130.252	84.7000
Austria	12.561	10000	Oman	0.5822	0.3881
Brazil	14573	10000	Pakistan	53.018	34.4554
China	8.2826	0.8387	Philippines	40.321	26.2500
Egypt	5.2289	3.4090	Portugal	254.515	12.5550
Finland	7.0785	4.8017	Qatar	5.5970	34.420
France	2.5289	16.448	Russia	76.448	4.85100
Greece	370.788	26.050	South Africa	6.0203	0.0000
India	53.4213	34.7500	Taiwan	41.9227	27.2680
Kuwait	4.0800	0.2991	UAE	5.6488	36.732

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount.  
 1000 quoted low to high are at a premium.  
 \* Rates quoted as percentages.  
 For the latest foreign exchange rates call 081 123 3033.  
 Call cost 35p per minute (cheap rate) 48p other times.

## Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
Base 8.00%	Discount 3.00%	Prime 8.75%	Discount 0.50%
France 10.00%	Canada 5.00%	Discount 3.00%	Belgium 3.00%
Italy 10.00%	Spain 5.00%	Discount 3.00%	Central 3.00%
Netherlands 10.00%	Denmark 3.75%	Repo (Ave) 7.80%	Lombard 4.25%

## Bond Yields

Country	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	15yr	20yr
UK	8.00%	7.36	6.1%	5.0%	4.2%	3.4%
US	5.1%	5.8%	5.1%	4.2%	3.4%	2.6%
Germany	6.4%	5.7%	3.1%	3.1%	10.1%	10.1%
Australia	8.1%	5.7%	0%	8.8%	7.1%	5.2%
France	5.1%	5.1%	0%	8.4%	7.1%	5.1%

## Money Market Rates

Interbank	Overnight	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Sterling	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%
Local Authority	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%
Discount Market	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%
Treasury Bill (1yr)	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%
EU Libor	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%
EU Libor 3m	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%

## Tourist Rates

Country	1995	1996	Country	1995	1996
Australia (Dollars)	12800	12800	France (Francs)	75500	75500
Austria (Schillings)	135400	135400	Germany (Marks)	22500	22500
Belgium (Francs)	450500	450500	Italy (Lira)	2000000	2000000
Canada (Dollars)	20400	20400	Japan (Yen)	10000	10000
Cyprus (Pounds)	0.0255	0.0255	Netherlands (Guilder)	10.000	10.000
Denmark (Krone)	0.0350	0.0350	Portugal (Escudo)	200.000	200.000
Holland (Guilder)	2.4800	2.4800	Spain (Peseta)	166.000	166.000
Finland (Markka)	6.9000	6.9000	Sweden (Krona)	10.000	10.000

## Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Settlement	Open
Long Oil	106.10	105.15	106.10	106.10
Short Oil	105.15	106.10	105.15	105.15
Long Euro	1.5373	1.5373	1.5373	1.5373
Short Euro	1.5373	1.5373	1.5373	1.5373
Long Gold	377.00	377.00	377.00	377.00
Short Gold	377.00	377.00	377.00	377.00

## Liffe FT-SE Index Option

Settlement price	3699.0	Settlement price	3699.0
Call	3699.0	Put	3699.0
Call	3699.0	Put	3699.0
Call	3699.0	Put	3699.0
Call	3699.0	Put	3699.0

## Energy

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Settlement	Open
Long Oil	106.10	105.15	106.10	106.10
Short Oil	105.15	106.10	105.15	105.15
Long Euro	1.5373	1.5373	1.5373	1.5373
Short Euro	1.5373	1.5373	1.5373	1.5373

## Commodity Indices

Index	1995	1996	Index	1995	1996
Oil	106.10	106.10	Gold	377.00	377.00
Oil	106.10	106.10	Gold	377.00	377.00
Oil	106.10	106.10	Gold	377.00	377.00
Oil	106.10	106.10	Gold	377.00	377.00

## Latest Unit Trust Prices

# Latest Unit Trust Prices

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
AXA Equity & Low Vol Trust Managers															
AXA Equity & Low Vol Trust Managers	10.50	10.50	2.82	AXA Equity & Low Vol Trust Managers	10.50	10.50	2.82	AXA Equity & Low Vol Trust Managers	10.50	10.50	2.82	AXA Equity & Low Vol Trust Managers	10.50	10.50	2.82
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# Oftel turns its fire on BSkyB cable terms

MARY FAGAN  
and MATTHEW HORSMAN

Don Cruickshank, the telecoms regulator, is gunning for Rupert Murdoch, in a bid to break the media baron's near monopoly on pay-TV programming. In a 64-page submission to the Office of Fair Trading, which is investigating Mr Murdoch's BSkyB, Mr Cruickshank's OfTel has lashed out at the terms on which the satellite broadcaster makes its pay-TV programmes - including the popular Sky

sport and film channels - available to cable companies. The intervention by OfTel, the telecommunications regulator, will increase tension with the independent Television Commission, the television watchdog. But OfTel argues that it has a right to be concerned over the future of the cable industry, which is the major competitor to BT in local telephone services. BSkyB currently dictates the terms on which it makes its channels available to the cable industry. Specifically, operators

can only receive significant discounts on programming if they accept "bundles" of channels. The price is fixed as a percentage of the retail price which BSkyB charges its direct-to-home satellite subscribers. OfTel regards both practices as unacceptable and anti-competitive. Mr Cruickshank is thought to be adamant that all BSkyB programming be unbundled, giving cable operators freedom to pick and choose among them. OfTel also calls for non-dis-

criminatory pricing, based on clear, separate accounts for the various parts of BSkyB's businesses. This reflects the approach used by Mr Cruickshank in his dealings with BT. The OfTel submission says that accounting separation is a key safeguard against abuse, and should be a central part of any undertakings. "There are good grounds for considering that [BSkyB's] pricing and other practices are tending to hold back the development of the cable companies and

therefore is threatening the prospects for competition in pay-TV in both the short and the long term." OfTel's chief concern is that this will in turn hold back the cable industry's ability to market its cable services and thereby reduce its attractiveness to potential telephone customers. Cable operators could find themselves "between a rock and a hard place", with Sky on one side and BT on the other. The ITC is believed to be wary of OfTel's intervention, and sees

the submission as an attempt to poach its territory. Under the current regime, the ITC and OfTel are meant to co-operate in key areas, including conditional access, the technical term for the scrambling and unscrambling of TV signals used by pay-TV broadcasters. But it is increasingly obvious that the ITC regards OfTel as a rival rather than a partner in overseeing a rapidly evolving industry, where the old distinctions between broadcasting and telephony are becoming blurred.

OfTel's submission is one of 30 received by the OfT, whose director-general, John Bridgeman, launched the inquiry earlier this year. Its conclusions are expected by the end of June. It may recommend a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, but the ultimate decision lies with ministers. It is not yet clear whether the OfT views the pay-TV market as separate from the overall broadcasting market, a distinction that could dictate the outcome of the inquiry.

## Post Office in pensions amnesty

PETER RODGERS  
Business Editor

The Post Office has offered 11,000 employees the right to opt back into its pension scheme, in a one-off amnesty for members who quit to take out personal pensions. The offer to non-members, who include some who refused to join the £10.5bn scheme when they arrived at the Post Office, runs to the end of June. Only a handful of public sector employers have made arrangements to readmit pension scheme members who left as a result of the personal pensions mis-selling scandal, which came to light more than two years ago.

Members of schemes such as the mineworkers, the teachers, the nurses and the Post Office were tempted by hard selling to drop the often substantial benefits of their corporate schemes and take up personal pensions that offered less security and lower pensions. The Securities and Investments Board stepped in when the scale of the problem came to light, and pension providers are expected to pay substantial damages to customers who were sold the wrong policies. But so far no cases have reached court and no compensation has been paid.

The Post Office said "the amnesty gives our people a second chance if they feel they made a mistake, perhaps after being targeted by personal pension sales teams. Many responded immediately to our offer and more are following as they calculate the benefits." Under the rules of the scheme, many of the 11,000 employees are prevented from rejoining by age or time limits, but the Post Office said the present circumstances were unusual.

A survey by the Post Office found that four out of five of its employees who opted out of the scheme did so to take out personal pensions, but the majority regretted it and now wanted to change their minds and get back in. Two-thirds of those who had never joined the company scheme also wanted a second chance to become members. Although the 11,000 will be able to regain the benefits of the Post Office's generous state sector scheme, they will not be able to replace the benefits lost during their period outside the scheme, except by suing the personal pension providers for compensation.

Among the other state employees hit by the scandal, the Home Office has agreed to amend legislation that prevents the 400 police who left their pension scheme rejoining.

Top jobs controversy: Fresh criticism for Sir Richard Sykes as NatWest banker's rewards overtake his chief executive's

## Glaxo chief's pay and bonuses soar to £2.15m

MAGNUS GRIMOND  
and JOHN EISENHAMMER

Glaxo Wellcome's chief executive, Sir Richard Sykes, looks set to spark a new controversy over executive salaries after it emerged that his total emoluments soared to £2.15m in 1995, making him one of the best paid directors in Britain. The news came as it was revealed that Martin Owen, head of NatWest Markets, received a 26 per cent pay rise to £617,000 last year, overtaking his boss, chief executive Derek Wanless.

The payment to Sir Richard covers a year when the giant drugs group announced 7,500 redundancies in the aftermath of its £9.3bn merger with rivals Wellcome. It comes just as senior management are set to move to a new incentive scheme inspired by the Greenbury report last year on executive pay which could net them over £20m in the next three years.

Sir Richard's pay last year compares with a redundancy payment of less than £60,000 which a 45-year-old worker with 20 years service could have expected to receive after the closure of Wellcome's Beckenham research centre in Kent last year. Paul Talbot, national officer of the MSF union, which represents workers at Glaxo Wellcome, said: "This is just disgraceful in view of the number of people who have lost their jobs in the last 12 months. That's not justifiable."

Most of recent controversial increases in executive pay were in the pharmaceuticals market. The new [incentive] schemes provide demanding targets. Sir Richard's basic annual salary went up from £700,000 to £800,000 last year, which came out at £1.125m for the 18 months. On top of that, he picked up a performance bonus of £212,000 relating to the 1993-94 financial year, which was paid in the latest period due to the changed year end, and £41,000 in other benefits. He received a further £770,000 to buy out the old incentive scheme, known as



Eye of the storm: Sir Richard Sykes has drawn criticism from unions, who compare his salary with redundancy payments

the performance unit plan or PUP for short. The new incentive schemes involve an annual element and a long-term plan. Essentially directors can collect up to 200 per cent of their salaries in shares after four years if certain personal and corporate performance targets are met.

In Sir Richard's case, this could be close to £5m over the three year period in which, amongst other things, the company must rank amongst the top 10 companies in the FT-SE 100 index. Meanwhile, the premium for top investment bankers was underlined yesterday with the publication of the £617,000 total remuneration paid to Martin Owen, the chief executive of NatWest Markets. He earned more than his boss, Derek Wan-

less, the chief executive of the whole NatWest Group. According to NatWest's annual report and accounts for 1995, Mr Wanless had a total remuneration package of £595,000, a 19 per cent increase on the previous year.

## £400m buyback to boost Guinness earnings

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

A day after disappointing investors by failing to come up with a scheme to return cash to shareholders, Guinness moved into the market yesterday to buy 10 million shares at 463p. The move was welcomed by analysts who expect it to be marginally earnings enhancing this year.

Guinness chairman Tony Greener said: "We are clear that our strategy, growing brands of alcoholic drink around the world, remains essentially an organic one. Our principal focus is reinvestment for growth in our existing business. Financial resource, where not required in the business, will be returned to shareholders in the most efficient manner."

The share buyback, conducted on Guinness's behalf by Cazenove, followed the announcement on Thursday of disappointing full year figures dragged down by lower profits in the company's United Distillers spirits arm.

Despite heavy spending on marketing, Guinness had to struggle to overcome depressed economies around the world. While profits were flat, however, cash flow remained strong during the year with net debt at the Johnnie Walker to Guinness stout group falling by almost £200m.

Guinness also managed an 8 per cent rise in the dividend payout which has increased by 38 per cent over the past four years, compared with an average rise of 28 per cent for FTSE100 companies and an inflation rate over the same period of only 12 per cent.

Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, confirmed its previous double A minus debt rating for Guinness, saying the move did not depart from "Guinness's historically moderate financial policies."

A return of some value to shareholders had been expected since last year's annual meeting when Guinness received approval from its shareholders to buy back up to 200 million shares, representing 10 per cent of its equity. "They are setting an example that other companies should follow", Pannure Gordon analyst Colin Humphreys said. "When you have fairly mature businesses that aren't really growing but generate lots of cash, you should return money to shareholders."

Guinness shares edged 4.5p higher to 465p as analysts factored in earnings enhancement in a full year of about 1.7 per cent. The deal is expected to increase gearing to 33-35 per cent by the end of the year, compared with expectations that gearing would fall during the year from 28-32 per cent.

LVMH, the French luxury goods and spirits business which owned 20 per cent of Guinness, did not take part in the buyback and its stake rose by one percentage point as a result. Announcing its own results on Thursday, the French company said it had no intention of reducing its holding.

Guinness said that under UK tax law, 32p of the cost of buying each share would be counted as a distribution. Tax exempt shareholders would therefore be eligible for a tax credit worth 81p a share.

## Gummer rejects BAE's plan for Bristol airport

British Aerospace's plan to run a second commercial airport for Bristol has been refused by the Environment Secretary John Gummer.

The refusal leaves a question mark over the future of BAE's north Bristol Filton site, former home production base of Concorde and now a major facility for the European Airbus. The aircraft company had said that its proposal for a business airport using Filton's runway - one of the longest in Europe - was vital in securing the jobs of 3,700 employees. Income from the airport would have reduced the £1.5m annual operating deficit of the field.

Mr Gummer announced his decision at a business seminar in Bristol today. It follows weeks of speculation on the plan to rival the municipally-owned Lulsgate Airport for business traffic. Mr Gummer said that he was accepting the recommendation for dismissal by Ms Jean Breckfield, who conducted a three-month public inquiry into the proposal last year.

Mr Gummer said: "I recognise that this decision, while welcome to many local residents, will disappoint others, particularly local businesses. But the decision ends a substantial period of uncertainty about future air services in the region."

"It leaves Bristol's existing airport at Lulsgate with the opportunity to develop its services and the new terminal which was granted planning consent last year."

The government will now commission a study of future demand for air travel in the region and the capacity of existing airport facilities, he said. BAE's proposal would have involved converting an existing building to a business terminal. The company had hoped for around 23,000 aircraft movements a year, including 6,000 at night - mainly business and freight traffic to UK and Continental destinations. There has been consternation

## National Express in front for Gatwick rail franchise

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR  
Transport Correspondent

National Express, the coach company, has emerged as the surprise preferred bidder for the Gatwick Express rail franchise, beating off bids from Virgin and the management buyout team which had linked in with British Airways.

Disappointed bidders for the Gatwick Express franchise were yesterday told of their failure to gain preferred bidder status and National Express has now entered a two-week sole negotiation period with the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising. There has been consternation

in the City over the leaky nature of the bidding process. One insider said that this was partly a result of OPRF's refusal to publish any information about the process. He said: "If OPRF published the shortlist of bidders, and then announced its decision as soon as it was made, we would not have these problems." There have been two surges in National Express's share price over the past 10 days, suggesting that knowledge of its success leaked out.

The company is also the favourite to win the Midland Main Line franchise, but there are now doubts over whether Roger Salmon, the franchising

director, would want a single company to be awarded two franchises. Mr Salmon is, however, facing a dilemma over the paucity of bidders shortlisted for the second tranche of four lines which are currently at the final bid stage.

Sea Containers is known to be the sole preferred bidder for the East Coast Main Line, and Compagnie Generale des Eaux is in the final stages of negotiation to take over Network South Central.

## Profits plunge at Wilson Connolly

Wilson Connolly confirmed the dire state of the house-building market last year with a plunge in sales and profits from its mass market housing operation, which sells three and four-bedroom houses for about £50,000.

Mr Wilson said: "The recovery in the housing market since 1992 gave hope that the worst of the recession was over. Sadly 1995 was yet another false dawn: continuing job insecurity, reductions in mortgage tax relief and the lack of fiscal support for the housing market have all impacted on fragile consumer confidence."

Turnover at the Midlands-based housebuilder collapsed from £116m to £245m as the number of completions fell to 3,870 from 1994's 4,200. Analysts had been expecting a maintained level of completions last year, but the company said it had difficulties getting planning consent for enough sites following a tightening of the planning regime.

Investment column, page 24

# STOCK MARKETS

\*New Jersey index & graph at 1996 hours

\*1997 World Index Sales

## Indices

Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1995/96 High	1995/96 Low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	3685.40	-7.60	-0.2	3781.30	2954.20	4.01
FTSE 250	4282.20	+8.00	+0.2	4282.20	3300.90	3.46
FTSE 350	1554.00	-3.20	-0.1	1899.00	1482.40	3.89
FT Small Cap	2080.56	+1.36	+0.1	2080.56	1678.61	3.99
FT All Share	1833.48	-1.90	-0.1	1864.99	1489.23	3.33
New York *	5634.11	-35.40	-0.6	5683.60	3832.08	2.15
Tokyo	20442.50	Closed		21118.30	14455.40	0.771
Hong Kong	10526.53	-43.97	-0.4	111194.48	8967.93	3.471
Frankfurt	2485.90	-7.36	-0.3	2502.22	1910.56	1.861

Figures at close of business 21/3/96

INTEREST RATES									
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	4 Year	5 Year	10 Year
UK	5.97	6.34	6.05	6.23	6.17	6.48			
US	5.22	5.86	6.35	7.22	6.87	7.46			
Japan	0.99	0.81	3.20	3.69					
Germany	3.34	3.35	6.48	7.12	7.22				

BOND YIELDS									
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	4 Year	5 Year	10 Year
UK	5.97	6.34	6.05	6.23	6.17	6.48			
US	5.22	5.86	6.35	7.22	6.87	7.46			
Japan	0.99	0.81	3.20	3.69					
Germany	3.34	3.35	6.48	7.12	7.22				

# CURRENCIES

Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday
£/£	1.5364	+0.41c	1.582	£/¥	0.6502	-0.17	0.632	£/A\$	0.6506
£/¥	0.6502	-0.17	0.632	£/A\$	0.6506	-0.17	0.634	DM/£	1.4775
£/A\$	0.6506	-0.17	0.634	DM/£	1.4775	+0.13p	1.3973	¥/£	156.570
DM/£	1.4775	+0.13p	1.3973	¥/£	156.570	+0.255	89.424	¥/DM	95.7
¥/£	156.570	+0.255	89.424	¥/DM	95.7	+0.1	90.9		

How the exchange rates and the Bank Rate at 1200 hours

## Pound

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
£/£	1.5364	+0.41c	1.582
£/¥	0.6502	-0.17	0.632
£/A\$	0.6506	-0.17	0.634
DM/£	1.4775	+0.13p	1.3973
¥/£	156.570	+0.255	89.424
¥/DM	95.7	+0.1	90.9

## Dollar

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
£/£	1.5364	+0.41c	1.582
£/¥	0.6502	-0.17	0.632
£/A\$	0.6506	-0.17	0.634
DM/£	1.4775	+0.13p	1.3973
¥/£	156.570	+0.255	89.424
¥/DM	95.7	+0.1	90.9

# OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Yesterday	Day's chg	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday	Day's chg	Year Ago
Oil Brent \$	19.13	-0.26	17.05	RPI	150.2	+2.9pc	146.0
Gold \$	393.00	-0.35	382.40	GDP	107.1	0.5pc	106.1
Gold £	257.09	-0.92	240.81	Base Rates			6.75

- Futures: Traded options that won't break the bank
- Insurance: The demise of 'knock for knock'
- Council tax: Getting the right valuation
- Share dealing: On the Crest of a wave

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## sport

## Wilson draws the short straw

## Swimming

GUY HODGSON  
reports from Sheffield

British swimming is not so strong that any stipulation about selection will draw too much blood. When the ace fell behind the front two in the 1500 metres in the Oprex Olympic Trials last night, however, a potential medalist was left with gaping internal wounds.

Ian Wilson, a silver medalist in the world short course championships last year, was the unlucky man who will not be going to Atlanta this summer after finishing third at the Forde, Sheffield. To compound a miserable day for him, his British record was also taken by Graeme Smith with a time of 15min 03.43sec.

What hurt more was the second place of Paul Palmer, who will hope to be taking part in three events in Georgia. "I don't know why someone who will be going to Atlanta in the 200 and 400 also wants to compete in the 1500," Wilson, from Leeds, had said before the race but looked like a man who had been gapped after it.

Palmer, realising that an Olympic medal in the 1500m might be a more viable prospect

than in the shorter events, had muscled in on Wilson's distance to take the second qualifying place. It was not even a close thing. Palmer crushing Wilson by 14 seconds.

The plot was three men going for two places but Smith, a European Championship silver medalist last August, soon made that equation one out of two with a blistering start. A second up after 100 metres, he had stretched that to 10 seconds two-thirds of the way through the race. He was gambling with his stamina but it paid off.

Palmer's tactic had been to hang on to the other two and hope his greater finishing speed would carry him into the top two places. Instead he had to chase the leader, which worked in his favour as Wilson was left in the process. By the end what was potentially the most competitive race in the trials had become a procession. Smith winning by 15 seconds.

Sarah Hardcastle was positively bullish - if that is an accepted term in these BSE-ridden days - about her chances in the women's 800m freestyle. "I believe I can win a medal," she said after qualifying to race in Atlanta with a time of 8:28.27 that was eight seconds inside the required time.

One of the reasons the 26-year-old from Bracknell returned to the sport in November 1992 was that she saw nothing at the Barcelona Olympics to suggest she would be out of her depth if she resumed a career that had climaxed with two medals in Los Angeles in 1984. Yesterday, you saw why.

Seven years older than any other woman in the final, she was in a different league as well as a different generation, creating a lead of six seconds at 400 metres and half the pool by the end. As she said: "There is no one coming through to take over from me when I retire."

Mark Foster also won by a large margin given that his distance, 50m freestyle, is as much a reflex action as a race. The Commonwealth Games gold medalist two years ago, and the world short-course champion in 1993, finished nearly half a second ahead of the second-placed Alan Rapley in 22.74.

Sue Rolph, who qualified for the women's 100m freestyle on Thursday, will be doubling up in Georgia after winning the 50m yesterday. The 17-year-old from the City of Newcastle has struck a lucrative vein of form because her 26.15 was her second personal best of the trials. Results, Sporting Digest, page 31

## Blundell to miss IndyCar race

## Motor racing

Mark Blundell is out of the Australian IndyCar Grand Prix at the end of the month following his spectacular crash in last weekend's Hollywood Rio 400 Grand Prix.

The British former Formula One driver sustained multiple fractures to his right foot when brake failure sent his PacWest Reynard into the wall on the 10th lap.

Bruce McCaw, the PacWest chief executive, said: "We're thankful that Mark was not

more seriously injured in what was a terrible crash. However, after he had a chance to get home and undergo a complete examination with his doctors, a decision was made - upon medical recommendation - that he should not race in Australia.

"Mark is going to need a little more time to heal. If anything happened in Australia, the risk of permanent damage would be unacceptably high. We're not willing to take any chances."

McCaw absolved Blundell of any blame for the crash in last

Sunday's race in the United States. "We have reviewed the circumstances surrounding the incident and have concluded that the cause of the accident was a mechanical failure, in which we assume full responsibility. There was no driver error involved," he said.

Although Blundell will not compete in Surfers' Paradise on 31 March, he will still travel with the team to Australia. "Mark is totally committed to the team and is disappointed that he will miss the series' first street race of the season," McCaw said.



Jennifer Capriati in first-round action at the Lipton Championships in Florida yesterday. "There is nothing like ripping a backhand down the line," she said. Photograph: AP

## Capriati has faith in her rehabilitation

## Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS  
reports from Key Biscayne

Having successfully completed the latest match of her comeback, Jennifer Capriati, the embodiment of a prodigy with problems, was asked to reflect on her adolescence. "Well, I went through a lot of emotions and feelings and a pretty fun, crazy time," she said.

The fun, as we know, was quickly overtaken by disaffection. Capriati was speaking some 10 miles from Coral Gables, where, in May 1994, she was found in possession of marijuana, and a short distance from Miami Beach, where she spent time in a drug rehabilitation centre after her arrest.

It is proving difficult for her to live those events down, but she appears to be making a determined effort. "You can't always look back at what you should have done or what would have been better," she said. "You've just got to live in the now."

When the Lipton Championships end here next weekend, Capriati will lose her classification as a teenager (her 20th birthday is on 29 March) and gain a world ranking for the first time in nearly two years.

In order to be placed in the top-100 after her third tournament since returning last month, Capriati must advance to the quarter-finals. She needs to defeat Elena Likhovtseva, ranked No 49, and, if successful, may then have to face Amanda Coetzer, the 10th seed. Further progress could lead to a meeting with Gabriela Sabatini, the No 4 seed, in the fourth round.

The first 20 minutes of Capriati's opening match against Lea Ghirardi-Rubbi, a French left-hander ranked No 86, left spectators as cold as the distinctly unseasonal Florida evening. The American lost the first five games, contributing 14 unforced errors to her oppo-

nent's confidence and winning only two points on serve like a novice, mis-timing shots which were either dumped in the net or flew out of bounds. Capriati proceeded to thrall the Stadium crowd with powerful, penetrating tennis reminiscent of her advent on the professional tour, when she soared to No 6 in the world. She won 13 of the next 24 games to win 7-5, 6-1.

"I just told myself to stop missing and go for it," Capriati said. "I was a little nervous at first. I haven't been playing in front of a lot of people, and you can't just go right into that like it is nothing. It turned out to be good. I was having a great time out there, especially the way the crowd was supporting me."

"I never thought I was done with tennis. I knew that it was inside me and it is what I do best. There is nothing like ripping a backhand down the line."

There was a shock yesterday for Martina Hingis, the 15-year-old Swiss, seeded No 21, who was defeated 5-7, 6-1, 6-3 in the first round by Nana Miyagi, a Japanese qualifier ranked No 101.

In the men's singles, Britain's Tim Henman advanced to a second-round meeting with Sergi Bruguera, the 10th-seeded former French Open champion, with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Steve Campbell, an American ranked 80 places below him, at No 138.

Greg Rusedski also advanced to the second round with a 6-4, 7-6 win against Justin Gimelstrob, a wild card from New Jersey, ranked No 293. Rusedski now meets Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman, who is 10 places above him at No 35.

Boris Becker, the No 5 seed, withdrew from the tournament because of a respiratory infection which has troubled him for the past month. His place in the draw was taken by Thomas Nydahl, of Sweden, a "lucky loser" from the qualifying. Results, Sporting Digest, page 31

## Feherty finds novel approach to bad greens

## Golf

ANDY FARRELL  
reports from Lisbon

A questionnaire at each tour event asks the players to comment on various aspects of the tournament. For the greens, they are asked to state whether their pace is slow, medium or fast. "All of the above," suggested one competitor in the Portuguese Open at Arcoria. "But not necessarily in that order."

"I'll deny saying it," David Fe-

herty said. The Irishman pitched in from 70 yards at the ninth to finish his second round at three under par, "hence avoiding the embarrassment of trying to carry 9. At that moment, he was five behind the overnight leader, Klas Eriksson, who had yet to begin his round. "His eight-under yesterday was extraordinary," Feherty added. "I can't see it happening again. If the wind keeps blowing, eight under could win."

Of course, in the afternoon, the wind dropped. Although

Eriksson faltered, Wayne Riley continued his good work. To his first round 65, the Australian added a 67 to reach 130 under with a four-shot lead. In picking up six birdies, Riley is clearly doing something well. "I'm keeping the ball on the fairways," he explained.

To do so he is utilising the more conservative of his driving styles. That means hitting it around 255 yards, but straight. On a bigger course, he would launch a 275-yarder that would only be "relatively straight".

The Scottish Open champion has also been working to tighten his swing. Only last week, in Dubai, did he feel the improvement and he decided to make the trip to Portugal only last Saturday.

"If you hit fairways and greens, you are going to have some chances. I'm trying to put the same as on good greens, but I'm not expecting as many to drop. I can't describe how bad the greens are. It is a shame, because it is such a good course otherwise," he said. Some things are better kept

on. Jamie Spence must have come as close as anyone to dreaming good things about the putting surfaces after he holed a 15-foot birdie putt in the dark on Thursday evening. Had it not gone in, the Kent golfer would have stayed four over with five holes of his first round to play.

Yesterday, he picked up another two birdies in those five holes, before adding a second round of 66. Pride of place went to a putt from 30 feet at the second that dived underground. In 24 holes he had improved from

four over to four under, to be the joint leading Englishman with Russell Claydon.

PORTUGUESE OPEN (Lisbon, Lisbon) (Early second-round scores (GB or IRL in brackets): 123 W. Riley (AUS) 65, 67, 337 J. Spence (ENG) 68, 68, 130 B. Campbell (USA) 69, 70, 139 D. Coetzer (RSA) 69, 70, 139 J. Gimelstrob (USA) 69, 70, 139 J. Bjorkman (SWE) 69, 70, 139 J. Nydahl (SWE) 69, 70, 139 J. Hingis (SWE) 69, 70, 139 J. Miyagi (JPN) 69, 70, 139 J. Sabatini (ITA) 69, 70, 139 J. Becker (GER) 69, 70, 139 J. Henman (GBR) 69, 70, 139 J. Bruguera (ESP) 69, 70, 139 J. Campbell (USA) 69, 70, 139 J. Coetzer (RSA) 69, 70, 139 J. Gimelstrob (USA) 69, 70, 139 J. Bjorkman (SWE) 69, 70, 139 J. Nydahl (SWE) 69, 70, 139 J. Hingis (SWE) 69, 70, 139 J. Miyagi (JPN) 69, 70, 139 J. Sabatini (ITA) 69, 70, 139 J. Becker (GER) 69, 70, 139 J. Henman (GBR) 69, 70, 139 J. Bruguera (ESP) 69, 70, 139 J. Campbell (USA) 69, 70, 139 J. Coetzer (RSA) 69, 70, 139 J. Gimelstrob (USA) 69, 70, 139 J. Bjorkman (SWE) 69, 70, 139 J. Nydahl (SWE) 69, 70, 139 J. Hingis (SWE) 69, 70, 139 J. Miyagi (JPN) 69, 70, 139 J. 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# Faith is favoured by draw

## Racing

GREG WOOD

Soft ground and firm predictions are rarely a dependable combination, not least before a race like the Lincoln, but as punters face up to the annual enigma that is the Flat season's first big handicap, one thing seems clear. Runners who are drawn towards the stands side — indeed, all those whose box number is into double figures — are as good as beaten before the starter reaches for his button.

History, both distant and extremely recent, allows no other conclusion. The two most recent runnings of the Lincoln on soft ground both produced a winner on the far side, while the evidence of yesterday's Spring Mile was conclusive. While most riders were decided, puzzlingly, to go down the stands' side, and appeared to be well ahead at half-way, the remainder eventually finished a long way clear. Horses from stalls two, one, seven and three filled the first four places, and Sharp Prospect, the ante-post favourite who will start from number 14, immediately started a walk in the market which will surely continue today.

A further statistic is worth considering before anyone opts for one of the market leaders, which is that only 10 per cent of Lincoln winners have finished in the first three in their previous outing. This does not mean we can simply strike out all those which do qualify, but it is another sign that fancied horses do not perform well in this race. The shortest-priced winners in the 16 chances, and while refusing to bet is the sensible option, anyone who wants to play should do so to small stakes at large odds.

The apparent advantage of a low draw has started a round of price-cutting, but strangely one runner with soft-ground form, a leading trainer and a liking for a straight mile is still available at 25-1 this morning.

It is almost three years since Show Faith (3.40) won the Britannia Handicap at Royal Ascot, an eight-furlong charge which is, if anything, even more

frantic than today's assignment, and while his final run last year was a little disappointing, he had previously finished fourth in the Cambridgeshire. From his number five draw, a prominent showing must be likely, and the odds are too good to miss.

The remainder of Doncaster's card is uninspiring, although Rainbow Top is an interesting runner in the 12-furlong conditions event after two easy wins on the all-weather. Dargydan (4.15) may be too good for him today, however, while Carranta (4.45) and Beas River (2.30) should also go close.

Newbury's jumps card is predictably diminished by its proximity to the year's two big Festival meetings, but the fields

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
NAP: Do Be Brief  
(Newbury 1.00)  
NB: Supreme Lady  
(Newbury 2.00)

are strong even if the quality is not. The feature event, the Hecst Panacur Novices' Hurdle Final for mares, can fall to SUPREME LADY (nap 2.00), for whom today's conditions will be ideal, and Teineia (next best 1.30) is another to support.

Some of the crowd will be drifting home as the concluding bumper is run, but not Ferd Murphy. The trainer was infuriated that French Holly was denied a run in Cheltenham's Festival Bumper by the handicapper's ungenerous estimate of his ability. Murphy believes that French Holly would have stood a major chance, so he will need to win today's bumper in order to win the season's punters' favourite, the again absent today, but will see a specialist on Monday and hopes to return to the saddle on Wednesday, 24 hours before the start of Aintree.

Another well-known figure is preparing to depart the stage. Guy Harwood, who prepared Dancin Brave and many other top-class winners such as To Agor-Mou and Ile De Chypre during the 1980s, has announced that he will pass his licence on to his daughter, Amanda, at the campaign's end.

## DONCASTER

**2.00 Kingsinger**  
**2.30 Le Sport**  
**3.00 Ashmore**  
**3.40 SHINEROLLA (nap)**

**HYPERION**  
4.15 Right Win  
4.45 Cool Jazz (nb)  
5.15 Frontman

**GOING** Good to soft (fast in places).  
**STALLS** Single-figure draws "safe" with lower numbers — 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 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# 28 sport

One of Britain's youngest Olympic medal hopes tests his strength in next month's World Championships. Ian Stafford met him

## Ainslie determined to put on Laser show

There seem to be two main images of yachting to the general public. The participants either all wear blazers and flannels, are called Rupert, and sip pink gins at Cowes every summer, or alternatively, they are a little more serious, have long bushy beards, wear thick woolly jumpers, and probably serve up fish fingers to their hungry crew.

Ben Ainslie would like it to be known that, when it comes to the serious stuff, both the above images are now history. For a start, Ainslie is only 19 years old but, despite his age, is seen to be a major contender for an Olympic medal in Atlanta this summer in the Laser class. Not just any medal either, but the shiny one.

Tall, lean, determined and fit, Ainslie's life off the ocean waves is vastly different from what you and I have thought. "Whenever I'm not actually sailing, I run for 90 minutes each

'It's a bit like grand prix racing. There's a lot of bumping, colliding and verbal exchanges'

morning, followed by a two-hour weights session in the afternoon," he explains, in an understanding and tolerant manner.

"I concentrate on heavy endurance sessions and high intensity heart-rate work. To give yourself the best advantage in a Laser dinghy, you should weigh around 78 kilos. Much less or more, and you will slow yourself down. It's rather like a boxer making the weight. I have a low fat, high carbohydrate diet, and I am very fit because I have to be."

He pauses for a second while this image-shattering information is digested, before adding the *coup de grace*. "People assume sailing is like playing bowls. I can assure you it isn't."

There's much more. When it comes to racing Ainslie, despite his tender years, already has a reputation for taking no prisoners. He may be softly-spoken, sitting in his parents' living-room, but out on the seas, travelling at speeds up to 20 knots, in his highly manoeuvrable, 13ft 10in, single-seat dinghy, he becomes a ferocious competitor.

"In the Laser class the boats aren't personalised," he continues. "In other words, we use whatever boat is given to us at any event. Nobody has an in-



Ben Ainslie with his father, Roddy: 'People told us Ben would be a world champion one day. He was always determined, and totally fearless'

Photograph: Peter Jay

tial advantage, because they are all exactly the same. It therefore boils down to who can catch the right winds, and that makes the racing very tactical and close."

How close? "Very. At the Olympics the races will be shorter, lasting about an hour. There will be a lot of changing angles and rounding markers, and I expect a lot of us to be doing it together, in a tight group. I'll definitely be getting stuck in there and fighting my way to the front."

"It's a bit like grand prix racing. There's a lot of bumping and colliding, and a fair amount of verbal exchanges during competition, especially if you are seen to be racing aggressively. It's fair to say that I'm often seen in this light."

It's also fair to say that, despite his little-known name to

become one of the British stars of the Olympics. He may still be a teenager, making him the youngest member of the British yachting team by some distance, but his sailing curriculum vitae would make a 30-year-old very proud.

The world Laser Radial champion in 1993, Ainslie then leapt up a standard to the Lasers, coming second in the World Youth Championships in 1994, and winning the same title last year. Initially getting himself towards the 2000 Sydney Olympics, he suddenly discovered that he could more than mix it with the grown-ups, winning the national Olympic trial last year, and then the St Petersburg regatta this year, before then recording two second places in the Miami Olympic regatta and the Auckland Olympics.

On this sort of consistent form, Ainslie is a young man to be feared, and a definite gold medal contender. "The point about Laser racing is that at anyone in the top 10 has a chance of winning," Ainslie goes on to explain. "The guy who came second in the World Championships last year finished 120th in the Olympic regatta a fortnight before. But I have to fancy my chances, and even though I have so much time on my side if it doesn't work out in Atlanta, the way I've been performing recently suggests I'm in with a good shout of a result."

Others have no doubt. "He's the most determined youth sailor I've seen in 20 years," said Rod Carr, the British Olympic sailing team manager. "He's the most talented sailor of his generation." Jim Saltonstall, Britain's Olympic coach, shares this view. "I'm convinced he'll turn into a great sportsman," is his verdict.

Which makes Ainslie's introduction to the sport even more unlikely. His father, Roddy, was himself a sailor of the highest standard. At the height of his career, he finished seventh in the inaugural Whitbread Round the World Race in 1973. In later years, he took to holidaying with his young family aboard their 40ft yawl.

Roddy takes up the story. "We'd sailed down from our home base then in north Wales to Cornwall. It was a trip we often made, but this time it went terribly wrong. A lobster pot wrapped itself round the propeller, and we ended up wrecked on the rocks. We all had to bale out and watch as the cruising boat broke up and sank."

That's a bit embarrassing for a Whitbread skipper, isn't it Roddy? "Well, I was OK sailing the middle, it was just

round the edge where I had problems. The local press all covered the occasion and, as a result, Ben received a phone call."

It came from a lady who suggested the eight-year-old should come and join the local sailing club at Restrongnet, on the Fal estuary. Whether she felt his father's sailing example left much to be desired is not known, but it turned out to be a significant moment in the short life of Ainslie Jr.

Young Ben began sailing in Optimists, the children's dinghy, helped by his enthusiastic parents, Roddy and Sue, who moved down to Cornwall. By 11, he had won his first national title, the junior championships in the Optimists Class, beating children considerably older than him in the process. He took the same title the following year, and entered the World

Championships a record four times until, at 15, he moved to Laser Radials.

"We couldn't see it back then, but people at Restrongnet were telling us that Ben would become a world champion one day," Roddy adds. "He was always determined, even back then, and totally fearless. At that age, you can understand some of his colleagues being nervous about sailing on rough, Cornish seas. But not Ben."

His son cuts in. "I was totally besotted with sailing. What helped was the fact that I had two friends in the club who had been determined as I was to be the best. It created a healthy rivalry. We'd go out sailing in the winter months, even when it was snowing."

The inevitable was accepted in 1994. Ben put his A-levels on hold, turned into a full-time sailor, and set his sights on At-

lanta. Spending around £12,000 a year on his sport, Ben just about breaks even by living at home, and gratefully accepts grants from, among others, the Royal Yachting Association and the Sports Aid Foundation.

But then again, he does have "Team Ainslie" behind him. You may notice that the whereabouts of the Ainslie home has not yet been mentioned. This is because it keeps changing. Right now, it is a rented cottage in Lymington, just on the southern edge of the New Forest, but only until the end of this month. Roddy sold his wood products companies, retired early, and now acts as Ben's taxi driver, secretary and second coach. Wherever Ben is sailing, he and his wife set up camp. They have turned themselves into true sporting travellers, wandering the world's coastlines like Bechams in the Sahara.

So, while Ben sets off for South Africa, where the World Championships begin on 10 April, an event where he hopes to rubber-stamp his Olympic medal credentials, Roddy and Sue leave for Savannah, Georgia.

"The first thing we'll do is drive to the first motel we see before later finding a house to rent for us and Ben right up until after the Games," Roddy explains. "That will be Ben's base for the campaign. Then, when it's all over, we'll return to Lymington and move into the hotel across the road from here until we find somewhere else. It could be anywhere."

That is some commitment. With parents prepared to become nomads for the cause, and with an obvious talent, track records and desire to reach the highest pinnacle of his sport, Ben Ainslie has every right to expect a glorious summer's sailing off the coast of Georgia.

This country has always enjoyed a good tradition of Olympic success, but never before have we sent a 19-year-old sailor to the Games, let alone one who fully expects to return with a medal. The name Ben Ainslie might not mean very much outside sailing circles. By the end of the first week in August, however, it could be a very different story.

## Modahl verdict might upstage main attraction

British athletic interest centres on Cape Town this weekend, where the International Amateur Athletic Federation council will discuss Diane Modahl's future in the sport the day after tomorrow's World Cross-country Championships in nearby Stellenbosch.

Modahl, who is currently training in Albuquerque, has this week received assurances from the IAAF that they will take into account further scientific evidence established since she had a four-year doping ban lifted on appeal by the British Athletic Federation last September.

Britain's only realistic hope for an individual medal at the championships, Paula Radcliffe, has seen her prospects diminish in the last fortnight as injury and illness have disrupted her preparations.

The 1992 world junior cross-country champion has missed nearly a week's training following a fall in her last race, and a bout of food poisoning this week has hardly helped. "I don't know how well I'm going to run," she said. "All I know is it won't be as well as I have hoped."

Derartu Tulu, of Ethiopia, is set on retaining the title she won in Durban last year, with two Kenyans - Sally Barsosio and Rose Chernyot - her most likely challengers.

The men's race sees Haile Gebrselassie, who has already broken two world indoor records this season, leading the Ethiopian challenge against the Kenyans, who have won the men's team event since 1986.

Kenya's Paul Tergat is confident, nevertheless, that he will defend his individual title. Tergat, who has set his sights on heating compatriot John Ngunjiri's record of five world titles, said yesterday: "Defending the world championship is a foregone conclusion."

The British men's team, with their new manager, Dave Clarke, have travelled in the hope of gaining a team medal, something they last did in 1992 when Clarke himself helped earn a bronze.

Clarke is now hoping that the likes of Andrew Pearson, Keith Cullen and the Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion, Rob Denmark, together with "a little bit of magic", can make an impression on a fearsomely strong field in which Portugal and Spain look most likely to impinge upon the normal African domination.

IAAF Council members are expected either to clear Modahl to run - upholding the BAF appeal panel's decision - or refer the case to an arbitration panel.

Modahl's case that faulty handling and storage of her urine sample by a Lisbon laboratory caused the huge testosterone levels found in her original test - a case that convinced the BAF panel - has been strengthened by two pieces of new scientific work since her appeal.

Professor Simon Gaskell, from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, has involved samples from Modahl herself in tests showing that overheat storage conditions can lead to dramatic increases in testosterone outside the body.

And Professor Rod Bilzon, of Liverpool's John Moores University, has proved that in non-sterile samples, testosterone levels can rise and fall, undermining accurate and reliable drug testing.

Modahl said: "The case against me was always weak. It should never have been brought in the first place. This new evidence should put the matter beyond any doubt."

Mike Rowbottom on two major issues to be settled in Cape Town this weekend

Rose Chernyot - her most likely challengers.

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# Cook hungry for a slice of the Wembley action

A Challenge Cup semi-final between Leeds and Bradford carries a guarantee of fierce local feeling, but for one will be a more intense experience than Paul Cook.

The Bradford Bulls' full-back and goal-kicker will line up at Huddersfield this afternoon, intent on blocking the way to Wembley for the regime that gave him his chance and then promptly discarded him a few months ago.

It has been a remarkable year for Cook, who is still only 19. At first, the arrival of Dean Bell and Hugh McGahan as Leeds' new management team seemed to have given him the opportunity he craved.

He was promoted to the first team ahead of more seasoned players, and performed so well that he was added to England's squad for the World Cup. No sooner was the ink dry on that entry in his CV, however, than Leeds had packed him off to Bradford in exchange for Carl Hall – a deal that caused some amazement both inside and outside Headingley.

"It came right out of the blue and I couldn't quite believe it at the time," he said. "There's still a bit of shock there but, on the other hand, I'm grateful to Dean and Hugh for giving me my chance. If it wasn't for the start they gave me, I wouldn't be anywhere near a Challenge

Cup semi-final at this stage in my career."

Cook still lives in Leeds and spends most evenings practising the skill that could bring his old club down on enemy territory. "I like to practice kicking for an hour a day, if not at the club then out on a field in Leeds with my brother."

Important as his marksmanship could be in what promises to be a close match, it is Cook's all-round game that will be watched with the most interest as he develops over the next few years. The word from Headingley after the surprise of his departure was that the coaching staff had identified flaws in his technique, especially in defence.

**Dave Hadfield talks to the Bradford full-back hoping to kick Leeds to defeat in today's Challenge Cup semi-final**

If there is any truth in that assessment, Bradford's coaching staff believe they can straighten him out, through the medium of one-to-one technical sessions that were not part of the routine at Leeds.

"They think nothing here of spending a couple of hours working on your game individually with you," he says. "On top of that, the team spirit here is like nothing I've ever known."

If proving that they were wrong to let him go gives Cook one good reason to shine

last summer. Their coach, Brian Smith, might be happier if he could play another ex-Leeds man, the Cup-tied hooker, James Lowe, this afternoon, as well as another recent acquisition, Glen Tomlinson.

Even without them, there is an atmosphere of confidence at Odsal. Smith admits, however: "They beat us three times last season and have been to Wembley for the last two years. They have to be regarded as favourites."

Leeds have lost rather too many important players from their side to look entirely convincing. With Lowe, Craig Innes and Garry Schofield all departed and Tony Kemp

injured, they are threadbare in some departments. George Mann can be surprisingly effective at stand-off, however, and if Kevin Iru is in the mood Bradford will be hard-pressed to stop them making it three Wembley visits in three years.

Clive Griffiths, the Wales coach and former assistant at Warrington, has been named as coach of the new club in south Wales. Mike Nicholas, the former Wales and Warrington forward who has set up the new club and plans to announce his playing squad soon, said that Griffiths had always been the first choice for the job.

An Australian court has granted a temporary injunction to stop Maurice Lindsay and the players so far signed to Super League setting up a competition of their own under the Global League banner. The full bench of the court will consider the matter further on Monday.



Cook: Still only 19 years old

## Second Division clubs split from NCA

England's Second Division clubs yesterday resigned en masse from the already emasculated National Clubs' Association, and in a move that may have profound significance threw in their lot with the First Division clubs, writes Steve Bale.

At a stroke they thereby created a still more powerful bloc within – or against, depending on how you view it – the Rugby Football Union as clubs and union confront each other about how the club game, which goes professional in just six weeks' time, is to be financed.

A meeting between the parties in London on Thursday, billed as the most important in this increasingly problematic process, reached no agreement other than to meet again next week. Such fundamental issues as contracts and broadcasting revenue still remain to be settled with the last resort being a breakaway, now involving the leading 20 clubs, from the RFU.

What with the mass of the RFU's membership exceeding 2,000 having their say at tomorrow's special general meeting in Birmingham, the forces of disunion in English rugby appear to be in the ascendancy at a time when Cliff Brittle, the grass-roots candidate who won the RFU executive chairmanship at the last, aborted SGM in January, has this very week publicly appealed for unity.

The NCA, which formerly had an important role in administering the Courage Championship while acting as a forum for the top 40 clubs, had already been rendered worthless by the resignation before Christmas of the First Division clubs, whose bargaining-power is now more powerful than ever.

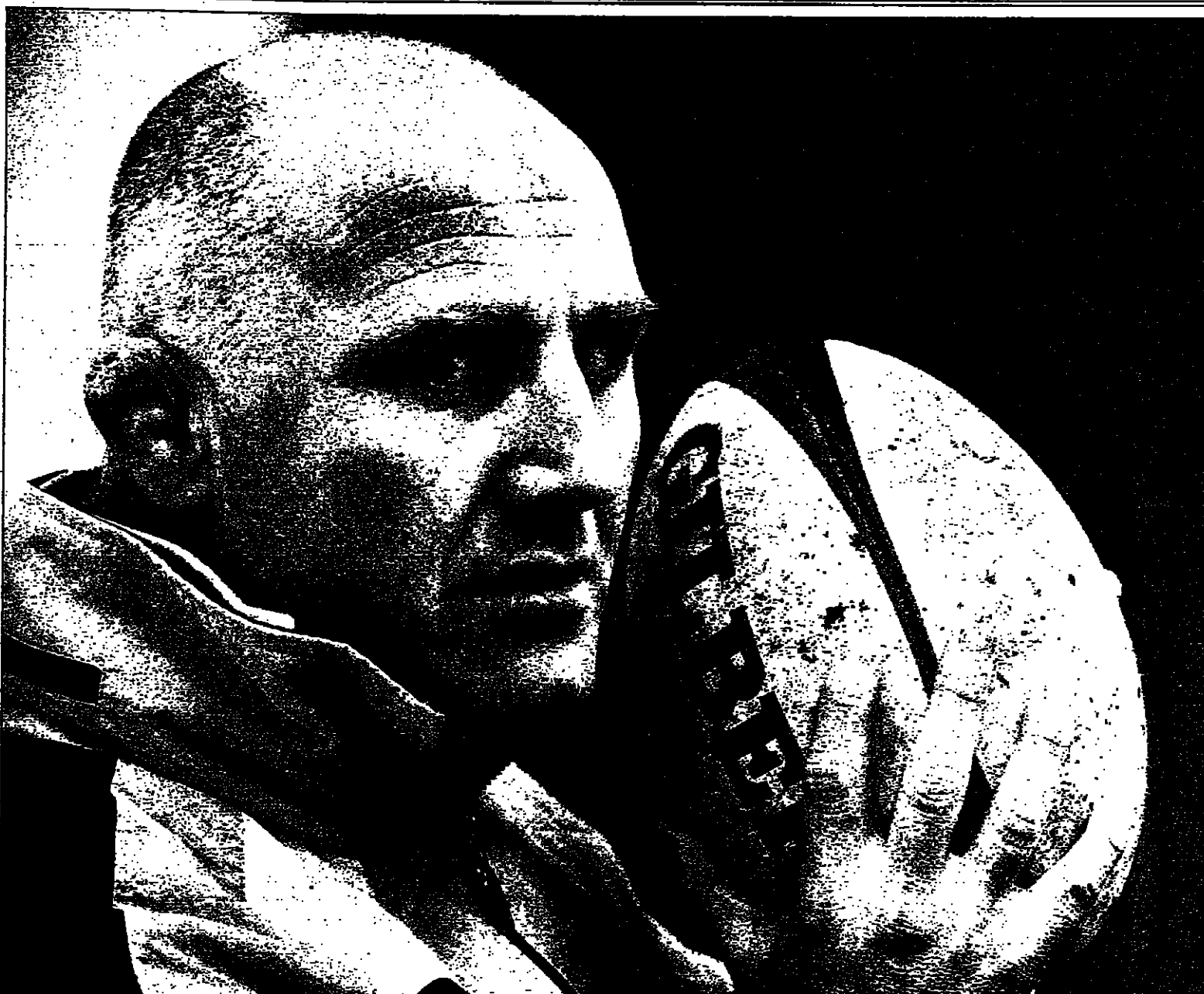
The Second Division clubs made their decision at a meeting at Moseley on Tuesday but agreed to defer any announcement until after Thursday's meeting with the RFU. They will now form their own organisation, parallel with the First Division's, and have a minority stake – two votes between them, to be cast by Sir John Hall of Newcastle and Steve O'Neill of Bedford, compared with the 10 First Division clubs' one each – in English Professional Clubs Ltd, the company formed to negotiate with broadcasters and sponsors.

Bristol, yesterday appointed the former England lock Mike Davis, best remembered as the 1980 Grand Slam coach, as assistant coach under the club's new coach and player-development director, Alan Davies, himself a former national coach with Wales.

### TODAY'S NUMBER

3

The number of golfers who shot a hole in one at the same hole on the same day during a professional tournament in Soja, western Japan, yesterday. The hole so convincingly named was the par three 187yd 15th.



Garry Halpin has his sights on success in the First Division next season as well as winning a place on the Lions tour

Photograph: Robert Hallam

## Halpin ready to reap his rewards

**Steve Bale meets the London Irish captain who faces a twin test of his ambitions in the Pilkington Cup against Leicester today**

The Irish semi-final has the corollary of showing Ireland what they have performed been missing so much the better for his prospects of being recalled next season.

A curious thing is that Halpin, 30 last month, should have stepped aside at the very moment he appeared at long last to have secured the place at tight-head prop which was first his in 1990 when he was playing back home in Dublin for the Wanderers club before crossing the water in 1991. He has since accumulated only 10 caps but as the last three of those were during the 1995 World Cup he approached this season favoured as the man in possession.

It made no difference. "When I see Ireland playing at Twickenham, of course I would love to be playing," he said. "But I never doubted I did the right thing, both for me and for the club. The first thing was I was tired after the World Cup – I just didn't have the ambition – and coupled with that there was the captaincy of London Irish."

In this regard the impressive presence of Clive Woodward, the former Leicester and England centre, as club coach had

a powerful bearing. "I knew it was going to be a big and demanding job, and Clive does nothing half-heartedly; you do it totally committed or you're no good to him. I very much agree with, and believe in, that philosophy."

"Because of this, everything was very clear for me. I could foresee too much hassle between

"I never doubted I did the right thing, both for me and for the club"

London Irish and the Irish RFU about player-availability and I didn't want to be in the middle of that club-v-country thing, wondering what to do when the IRFU wanted to take me out of important games. If I, as captain, had to leave every time, it wouldn't work."

"I'm quite influential in our team. There are a lot of young guys who sort of look up to me, even if it's the first time in my

life anyone's done that. So I was making a statement that I had given up international rugby and this was the level of commitment I was willing to make for the club. They responded."

The result is second place in the Second Division, two points behind Northampton (who have two games in hand) but more relevantly two ahead of London Scottish with four to play and a vastly superior points-difference. This is why next Saturday's visit to Wakefield is of greater significance to Halpin and his team even than today's showcase occasion.

It is also why the semi-final worries Halpin and Woodward so. On the one hand, players' minds have been so fixed on, and nerves so tight about, Leicester that training has been adversely affected. On the other players' minds are at the same time so fixed on the Wakefield match that the captain fears they may not do themselves justice today.

"If I had a choice, I would love to play this game after our league campaign. Its timing is appalling from a preparation point of view. We have what we know will be a very physical game this weekend and then

have to go to Wakefield next weekend for another physical game. It bugs me that it's happened this way, that we can't hype this game as we should, and our mental preparation could be a lot better."

The crowd approaching 7,000 who will fill Sunbury may beg to differ about relative significance but in any case the semi-final should provide the exiles – and Woodward and Halpin in particular – with a yardstick of what to expect next season and how far they will need to go in strengthening a promotion-winning team.

To this end an influx of Irish and sundry non-UK players is expected once the First Division has been attained, so on second thoughts perhaps today's exercise will not be such a yardstick after all. Whatever, by next season Halpin hopes (against hope) that the club-v-country issue, which has bedevilled London Irish's relationship with the Irish union, will have been resolved. Then he will be ready to restate his claim.

"I know I've had a chequered international career but I was always very aggrieved at the people they picked ahead of me. In the ability to play rugby I'm as good as anybody there and, internationally, I still have huge goals. I've taken my year out. I'm recharged, and I want to go on the Lions tour to South Africa next year."

"I may not have that many caps but the only other tight head I would really regard in these islands is Darren Garforth and if I got a Lions tour, five or 50 caps for Ireland wouldn't matter a damn." The uncapped Garforth, as it happens, plays for Leicester against Halpin today, so you could say the Lions hunt starts here.

## Leicester not a priority for London Irish

To London Irish of the English Second Division this afternoon falls a problem that has this season proved insoluble to all of the First Division, even Bath: how to stop the remorseless grinding march of Leicester's magnificent forwards, writes Steve Bale.

As this Pilkington Cup semi-final, even though it is on home turf at sold-out Sunbury, is down the list of Exile priorities, even the Irish themselves do not anticipate a solution. Amazing to relate, given the height of its profile, but this is a game they would just as soon not have to play.

Still, if they dispose of all 200 barrels of Guinness on order (one for every 35 people in attendance) the coffers will have been usefully swollen at a time when the Irish, expecting to join Leicester in the First Division, need every last punt, pound and penny in order to finance next season's new professionalism.

Even if they wanted to reach Twickenham to play the winners of Gloucester's visit to the holders, Bath, it would need more than advance knowledge of how Leicester will play. "If we get tunked at this stage, I wouldn't read too much into it because they've been tunking most teams all season," the Exiles' captain, Garry Halpin, said.

"There's nothing hugely special about it. They have a big pack that mashes everybody up. They take a couple of penalties. The opposition are then forced to try to play rugby, forced to make mistakes. Leicester score a try or two and get a big-margin win."

"It's very basic and they actually don't do a lot, but stopping their basics will be a huge problem." And so it will probably come to pass. Alas for the Irish, Dean Richards is fit to lead the league champions despite having failed to train this week – a state of affairs that generally suits the England No 8 very well.

In the other semi-final Bath's annual progress towards the double brings a return to the Rec for Richard Hill, scrum-half in so many of their triumphs but now Gloucester's coaching director. As he has been constantly reminded this week, for the first time since he first played at Bath for Exeter University he must remember to turn left into the visitors' dressing-room.

There is a poignancy here that comes not only from Hill's playing career but from his acrimonious departure from Bath, where he was chairman of selectors until in effect being frozen out of the club last September. His new team have the England A full-back, Mark Maplet, fit for the first time in a year – a return that may also do something about Gloucester's goal-kicking.

No such worries for Bath, who have been spared the embarrassment of deciding which of Mike Catt or Jonathan Callard to play at full-back by an injury to Richard Butland which leaves Catt no alternative but to revert to outside-half. "Jonathan lands those inevitable early penalties and gives the team the necessary cushion and confidence to play attacking, all-round rugby from the start," Phil de Claville, the Bath captain, said. One wonders why, then, was he ever dropped?

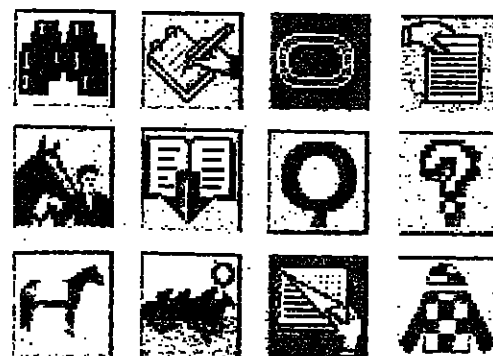
It is Swalec Cup quarter-final day in Wales, with Cardiff's visit to Llanelli far and away the biggest tie – and in its way a reminder of the uncomfortable reality that these great clubs are no less disenchanted with the Welsh Rugby Union than the Bath and Leicesters are with their Rugby Football Union.

Unreality, meanwhile, will intrude when the RFU's special meeting in Birmingham tomorrow decides whether to permit the English game to go open. Hang on a minute, didn't that happen everywhere else last September?

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## India are the big draw at Milton Keynes

ockey  
LL COLWILL

The £9.5m National Stadium at Milton Keynes will open its international gates tomorrow as the England teams play at India's men and women's women.

The invitation to India, with series of Olympic medals - which from Amsterdam in 1928 to Munich in 1972, should the turnstiles clicking. After

hitting rock bottom in the 1986 World Cup, in London, when they finished 12th and last, they have clawed their way back and were last year playing in the elite Champions' Trophy in Berlin where they finished in fifth place – one place ahead of England.

Encounters with India of late have been very close, with the last four ending in draws. The most recent was 3-3 against Great Britain in the Olympic qualifier in Barcelona. The Indian team shows just two

changes to their Barcelona squad, one of which is their reserve goalkeeper, Ashu Ballal.

The captain, the 31-year-old Fargat Singh, from the Punjab Police, with over 200 international appearances, is their most experienced player while the centre-forward Dhanraj Pillay, who had a season in the National League with Indian Gymkhana, is their most exciting.

Unfortunately England are without four of their successful Barcelona squad. The captain

Jason Laslett is recovering from a broken ankle, Simon Hazlett pulled a hamstring in Tuesday's Army Cup final, Russell Garcia, Barcelona's player-coach, has not been released by his Spanish club – and Rob Thompson is getting married today.

The Great Britain players have been excluded from the England women's squad which is captained by Jane Smith for the first time, but should be too strong for a French side lacking several familiar names.

## Scotsmen reach final

Bowls

Scotland's Kenny Logan, Willie Wood and George Adrain will contest the first final of the World Bowls Championships in Adelaide tomorrow.

The only British team involved in the semi-finals produced a devastating display against South Africa's Theuns Fraser. Ashley van Winkel and Kevin Campbell to win 23-11, restricting their opponents to counting on just five of the 18 ends.

The Scots' final opponents will be New Zealand's Andrew Curran, David Fife, and Peter Belliss, who scraped home 18-17 against Australia's Ian Taylor, Kelvin Kirkow and Steve Anderson.

Today pairs semi-finals see the defending champions, Richard Corsie and Alex Marshall from Scotland, take on the home country's Cameron Curtis and Rex Johnson, while Ireland's Jeremy Henry and Sammy Allen meet the Welsh duo Will Thomas and Robert Weale.



# Level of entertainment in Wilkinson's hands

GLENN MOORE  
Football Correspondent

The destiny of tomorrow's Coca-Cola Cup final, and whether it will be worth watching, could well be decided by the approach of one man.

If Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, comes to Wembley prepared to let his team play, they could win their first domestic cup final in 23 years. If he comes seeking to stifle the opposition and flinch a result, it could be the worst spectacle since... well, since Leeds played Liverpool at home in the FA Cup quarter-final a fortnight ago.

After that goalless bore, Wilkinson sarcastically sug-

gested his team should have "entertained, and lost by three goals". Which is precisely what happened when they went to Anfield for the replay, not that Leeds were any more positive than at Elland Road.

Hopefully that brace of matches will have convinced Wilkinson that his team are better served by having the shackles taken off. They are capable of beating anyone on their day, but those days are increasingly rare and tend to happen when Manchester United are visiting Elland Road.

Wilkinson has enough incentive: this is his first Wembley final in 34 years in the game. "It means an awful lot, one hell of a lot. It's a match I want to win."

In Gary McAllister, Leeds

have one of the finest midfielders in the country; in Tony Yeboah, they have one of the most explosive forwards. Gary Kelly is a pacy full-back and John Lukic is an experienced, in-form goalkeeper.

Nigel Worthington is expected to play tomorrow in place of the injured Tony Dorigo, while Paul Beesley looks like making way for Lucas Radebe, who has been lifted by South Africa's African Nations success. The key decision is whether to play four of five at the back. If Wilkinson opts for five Leeds have come to stifle, especially if Mark Ford is also included as a marker.

Apart from a recent dip in form, largely provoked by a series of injuries, Villa have been

consistent - consistently good. Unlike Leeds they concentrate on themselves, not the opposition.

"Only once this season have I picked a team with the opposition in mind. That was against Arsenal, in the League at High-bury, and we lost," Brian Little, the manager, said. "I won't do that again. We make people aware of the opposition, at set-pieces and suchlike, but we go out thinking of the way we play. I have confidence in the players. They know if they play well they can win."

"Howard thinks very deeply about the opposition and tends to change things - in one game against us big Brian Deane marked Alan Wright. He will be looking at us and thinking: 'I will

have to do that'. I could not single out anyone in our team and say: 'It depends what he does on the day'. Leeds are slightly different. I think McAllister does make them tick. They have other strengths which might give us problems, like the set-pieces, but McAllister and Yeboah are the dangers in open play."

Villa do have important players: Mark Bosnich, Gareth Southgate, Mark Draper and Dwight Yorke form a mobile and intelligent spine. Gary Charles and Alan Wright give them width. Their shape (three centre-backs, wing-backs) is designed to be solid rather than attractive but the personnel, especially Yorke, lend it flair.

The player who gives them

that individual spark looks, however, like missing out. Tommy Johnson's thigh injury is likely to rob Villa of their most inventive attacker; with Julian Joachim cup-tied, there is no natural replacement.

They will have the great unpredictable on their side, Savo Milosevic, who shoots when he should pass, passes when he should shoot but, in various ways, justifies his place as the first Serb to play in a Wembley final (Yeboah is the first Ghanaian).

It is a hard one to call. Villa are favourites, but so were Manchester United when Villa won two years ago. If Leeds come out to play, it could be their day, and good luck to them. If they come to spoil, all power to the Villa.



Little: 'I'd still like to have my hair long but it doesn't go with the job' Photograph: Allsport

## Reformed rebel Little still longing to let his hair down

I was put to Brian Little, as he prepared to face a 50-strong media inquisition in the build-up to tomorrow's Coca-Cola Cup final against Leeds that this was the price of success.

"Not yet, it isn't," he responded, and even his soft Durham burr could not disguise the fact that this was a man who had learned, through bitter experience, never to take anything for granted.

There are two ways of looking at Brian Little's career. The positive considers 300-plus matches with Aston Villa, 82 goals, a promotion and two League Cup winners' medals, and international recognition. It adds two championships and a promotion as a manager and the current Villa revival. The negative dwells on a talented player who failed to fulfil his potential and was then cruelly cut down through injury at 26.

He seemed sprinkled with stardust when, having won the World Youth Cup with England, he was capped at 21. But he played just 20 international minutes. The season after his injury Villa lifted the League title. They went on to win the European Cup, while Little was selling Villa lottery tickets from a Mini Metro.

When he turned to management he was sacked two months into his first job and was a phone call away from leaving the game. Even after he found success, there was pain in the controversial move from Leicester to Villa.

All of which explains the transformation from cavalier player to roundhead manager. To meet Little now is to meet an accountant from central casting. He has short, greying hair, is neatly dressed, quietly-spoken, and exudes diligence and intelligence. The only thing flashy about him is the name of his alsatian.

Yet, dig into the *Match of the Day* archives and there he is, shaggy-haired, his shorts, hair long even by the standards of the late 1970s, at times a full beard and moustache. Off the field he had a rebellious streak and regularly fell out with Ron Saunders, the manager.

"He was not someone I thought would be a manager," admits Allan Evans, his former team-mate and now assistant at Villa. Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman who hired Little as manager a quarter of a century after signing him as an apprentice,

said the change was down to "maturity. As one gets older one does not do crazy things but you expect it from youngsters."

He was also, recalled Ellis, "quiet, modest, almost shy, but I knew he had a terrific tough streak. Discipline-wise I do not think you would find a stronger manager in the country. He does not say much but, by God, when he does they jump to attention."

"He is fair. He never slaughters players in public," said Evans, "but he will have a go behind closed doors."

Little took over at Villa in November 1994 with the team sliding towards relegation. He quickly brought in several young players and the drop was narrowly averted. Further re-building took place in the summer but the foundations for this season's success were laid at the Bodmoor Heath training ground. He would take the team on long walks, explaining what was required of them, then he, John Gregory and Evans, would split up, taking forwards, midfielders and defenders respectively, and working on the system. Come the first day of the season, Villa, playing three central defenders with wing-backs, three midfielders and twin strikers, faced Manchester United. They were 3-0 up at half-time. "It has all stemmed from there," Little said. "Confidence is a big factor in football, going out there knowing you can do well."

"We have a group of players who want to progress, who want to be something. They are led by several guys who have been at the top and have a lot to offer. Most of the new lads are young international players whose previous clubs have not had the best of times. They have real talent, we have given them a stage, an opportunity to blossom."

Glenn Moore meets the man who has turned from cavalier player to roundhead manager of Aston Villa

While he could sign such players as Mark Draper, Gareth Southgate, Gary Charles and Tommy Johnson, more established talents could not be tempted. "We tried to get Les Ferdinand but he preferred Newcastle. I could understand that. But I hope, if we are trying to sign a player like that this summer, he will want to come to Villa Park."

It is one of the players he inherited who has shone brightest: Dwight Yorke. "He is revelling in the confidence we have in him. People say he is shy; he is anything but. He is a happy fellow and very talented. Some of the things he does are incredible. The other day he was standing in a dustbin keeping the ball up on his head 200 times taking five or six off everybody. Giving him confidence - and keeping it in check - will bring the best from him."

Little himself was a less explosive player. Ellis likens him to John who was killed by lightning while playing golf. "They both ghosted into positions, he had a great deal of pace over five or 10 yards," Ellis said.

The chairman appears to regard himself as a father figure to Little, which is not surprising since he first knew him as a 14-year-old trialist, watched him court and marry Heather, a former Villa secretary, and signed his brother, Alan, as a manager, just to get Brian.

"The day of the signing his mum and dad came down and I remember his mother saying, 'I'm very sorry, Mr Ellis. Brian will not sign for Villa. He does not want to leave home.'"

"He had already been with us 18 months as a schoolboy and I said: 'We can't have that. He may be shy the first few days but he will soon get over it'."

## Lukic relies on experience to answer the difficult questions

There is a question which John Lukic is forever being asked. Is it true, people want to know, that he was in the Munich air crash as an unborn baby?

"You'd be amazed," Lukic said, shaking his head. "By the letters I get from solicitors and the like, wanting me to confirm it for their quizzes. There was a Lukic involved, a stewardess I think, but all they have to do to see that it's nonsense is look up my birthdate. If I had a pound for every time it's happened..."

The story has assumed the status of an urban myth. But tomorrow, if Leeds United overcome Aston Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup final at Wembley, Lukic really will become the answer to a legitimate quiz question. Who is the only player to earn both a championship and League Cup winner's medal with two different clubs?

The 31-year-old Lukic was a towering presence in Arsenal's goal when Charlie Nicholas upset the odds and Liverpool in the 1987 final. Two years later he initiated Michael Thomas's title-clinching thrust at Anfield. He was also ever-present as Leeds finished first in '92, a success made all the sweeter when set against the sadness of his first spell at Elland Road.

Now 35 and the steady antithesis of the flamboyant keeper personified by Villa's Mark Bosnich, Lukic goes back a long way with Leeds. To shortly after the Don Revie era, in fact. As a schoolboy being courted by the club, he travelled from his Chesterfield home to watch them beat Barcelona on their way to the European Cup final of 1975.

By the time the England youth international displaced David Harvey four years later, Leeds were in transition, as Lukic politely put it. "The club was living in the past. Everyone thought we had too many good players to go down, but we were relegated in '82. It took years to get over it."

As a developing talent in a declining team, Lukic was never likely to stay long

Phil Shaw talks to Leeds' veteran goalkeeper who has seen the best and worst of times at the club

in the old Second Division. "I played 25 games before it became clear it was best for both parties that I left," he recalled. "I went up with Karen, who's now my wife, to tell Eddie Gray (then manager) I'd decided to go. We were both tearful."

Leeds lurched from crisis to crisis, beset by poor results, hooliganism and debt. Lukic set about establishing himself at Highbury. After understudying Pat Jennings he became the undisputed No 1, first under Don Howe and then, as Arsenal embarked on a silverware spree, George Graham.

It irks Lukic that the Graham team, particularly its awesome and still-thriving back four, did not receive the credit he feels they deserved. "People called us boring but I prefer to say we were disciplined. If attackers made stupid runs against us, that was their hard luck. But we never practised off-sides - it was part of our overall professionalism."

Graham, ever the ruthless perfectionist, decided to replace his keeper with David Seaman, who ironically had been allowed to leave Leeds when Lukic was ensconced there. "It wasn't a shock," Lukic said, "because on deadline day the previous March, he tried to get David and palm me off on loan to QPR."

"But I declined, and the office staff at Arsenal thanked me the next day. They'd had all this lovely food which was left over from the press conference about David."

Howard Wilkinson brought him "home" for £1m in 1990, a year after the

odd broadsheet for the news, and the only video I've got is in my head. I can tell you exactly what I've done in a game - the significant things - and why I did them."

Lukic also took the rap when Leeds struggled before Christmas. But Mark Beesley could not stem the flow of goals, which suggested that the problems went deeper than any individual. Wilkinson recalled him last month, since when the impression, confirmed by a stunning save from Stan Collymore on Wednesday, has been one of a player at the peak of his powers.

Just as well, for consistency is not Leeds' strongest suit. "We've been very enigmatic in the League," Lukic conceded, "but steady in the cups. In the past, if we'd gone a goal down at Birmingham, like we did in the semi-final, that might have been it. This year we've dug in. Form, or rather Leeds' lack of it, points to a Villa victory, although from Lukic's experience - which includes Arsenal's final upset by Luton - there are no underdogs in a one-off match". Especially when the favourites are facing a forward, in Tony Yeboah, who might have been born to grace Wembley.

"Anywhere's a stage for Tony, but I'm sure he'll revel in the atmosphere. People talk about his spectacular shots, yet most of his goals are cold-blooded, with pace and whip on the ball. In practice games, I try to get on the same side."

Leeds should be thankful Lukic is in their tomorrow. His authority and maturity (he does not thank me for noting that he played alongside Frank Gray, whose son Andy is in the final squad) stand out in a team short on Wembley pedigree.

By coincidence, both he and Bosnich have family roots in the former Yugoslavia, and each talks knowledgeably about the conflict. Tomorrow, however, the questions will be posed by lunging boots and foreheads. Lukic is a private person to whom brash predictions are alien, but Leeds can be confident that he will be armed with the answers.



Lukic: Back at Wembley tomorrow against Aston Villa Photograph: David Ashdown

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# Newcastle face a testing time

When Newcastle led the Premiership by 12 points, the strain of which their pursuers clutched was the severity of their final away fixtures. Today, a solitary goal ahead of Manchester United, albeit with two games in hand, the period when "Away the lads" could become "No way the lads" is upon them.

Twenty-five hours before Old Trafford receives Tottenham in what is traditionally one of the season's epic occasions, Kevin Keegan's side face Arsenal in what seems certain to be a tense, attritional affair. Next weekend Newcastle go to Liverpool, whose rich vein of form makes it a three-way race, and they still have matches at Blackburn and Leeds to come.

The strain of leadership caught up with Newcastle a month back, and it was evident that they played with greater freedom against West Ham on Monday when starting in second place. Arsenal, however, will be obdurate opponents, even though Roy Adams will not be fit after all to confront Les

**Phil Shaw** looks at the weekend's football as the Premiership struggle intensifies

Ferdinand, who has never scored at Highbury.

After his outlay on Dennis Bergkamp and David Platt, Bruce Rioch expected Arsenal to be challenging themselves. Nevertheless, their players still have a chance of qualifying for the UEFA Cup, as well as the incentive of performing sufficiently well to survive Rioch's threatened purge or, indeed, of attracting would-be buyers.

Terry Venables will be at the game, which features six of his squad for Wednesday's visit of Bulgaria. Platt, who has missed England's last four matches, could regain the captaincy from Adams if he impresses the national coach.

Spurs take one of the division's best away records to Manchester. Yet with Colin Calderwood the latest in a long list of casualties, they look better equipped for the counter-attacking part of the game plan with which Arsenal frustrated

United for more than an hour in midweek for the massing-behind-the-ball aspect.

Alex Ferguson may omit Andy Cole for the first time in the 14 months since his £7m signing, with Paul Scholes set to step in. Scholes, nine goals from 14 starts this season, came on against Arsenal for Cole, who has the same tally from 27, after the latter squandered a series of chances.

A further seven of Venables' charges are in action at Nottingham, where Liverpool's burgeoning self-belief is likely to be strong enough to counter any backwash factor Forest may muster in the aftermath of their humbling by Bayern Munich. The welcome for Stan Collymore, from both his former team-mates and those who revered him on the Trent End, should add spice to the occasion.

At the bottom, the game will surely be up for Bolton if they do not overcome Sheffield Wednesday in the second of three consecutive home games. The first was lost to Spurs, deflating the feel-good factor generated by a trio of away victories. Aidan Davison continues in goal knowing that Bradford City's Gavin Ward would probably have replaced him had Bolton's £250,000 offer not failed.

Manchester City, having banked £3.2m from the sale of Garry Flitcroft, appear almost as likely as Barry Fry to enter the transfer market before Thursday's deadline. Alan Ball's logic - that City are well covered for midfielders - will cut little ice with fans in their revival falter at West Ham, where the home side have won four of their last five matches.

A City victory, perhaps in tandem with a point or more for Wimbledon at Everton in a future redolent of relegation, would intensify the pressure on both Southampton and Coventry ahead of Monday's six-pointer at The Dell.

## TEAM NEWS

**Arsenal v Newcastle**  
The Gunners' defence, Adams, will have to wait for his return after receiving a yellow card for a foul in the first half. Adams is expected to return to the starting line-up.

**Manchester United v Tottenham**  
United manager Alex Ferguson has named a strong side to face Tottenham. The team includes Paul Scholes, who is expected to start in place of Andy Cole.

**Liverpool v Blackburn**  
Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier has named a strong side to face Blackburn. The team includes Steven Gerrard, who is expected to start in place of Robbie Keane.

**Sheff Wed v Sheff Wed**  
Sheff Wed manager David Wetherby has named a strong side to face Sheff Wed. The team includes David Wetherby, who is expected to start in place of David Wetherby.

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Contradiction in terms: Professor Hans Eysenck, the man who pioneered IQ testing and a Manchester United fanatic

Photograph: Peter Jay

## Top shrink owns up to United fetish

The other day at Old Trafford a most unexpected announcement came over the public address system. "Greetings to the Dublin branch of the United supporters' Club", or "Would Darren meet Julie after the game outside the United Mega-store to help her carry the souvenir bags home" - came the following: "Happy 80th birthday to Professor Hans Eysenck, who is sitting in the Stretford End."



**Jim White** meets Professor Hans Eysenck, an Old Trafford regular who has a good mind to solve Cole's scoring problems and give Gazza an IQ test

and brought up in Berlin. He is thus a dyed-in-the-wool Manchester United supporter.

"I used to play football as a child and started to watch games at about eight years old," he said.

"And even then we knew of Manchester United. I have been recently in Egypt and Taiwan. The moment they hear I am from England they say the name Manchester United without even knowing I support them. When I retired 12 years ago I could go more frequently and I became a season ticket holder and try to go to every game, British Rail permitting. It is a good time: this United team is almost the best I have ever seen."

Professor Eysenck has spent a good portion of his career combining his hobby with his academic work. He has written papers on the benefits of psychological preparation for sportsmen, to which end he and his colleagues conducted considerable research in dressing rooms.

"We didn't get much encouragement from players. They said: 'We are not screwy, we don't need you'. Shrinkers have a bad reputation in England. In Germany they were much more receptive. Though, even over there, you always got problems with managers. They saw you as trying to usurp part of their function."

He is particularly fascinated by the psychology of form, the standing, this year he has lost heart. Loss of form must be a psychological phenomenon, because physically he is exactly the same. Cole obviously has ability, but he worries about something. That is easy to see. But helping solve those problems, that is difficult."

Perhaps he should volunteer his services. "No, no. Most academic psychologists and psychiatrists are very poor on practical psychology. People always get quite the wrong idea. At parties I meet a girl and she says: 'You must be able to read my mind.' If only I could. I think Alex Ferguson is a very astute natural psychologist. To be so successful he must be. I'll leave it to him."

In any case, there is, Professor Eysenck reckons, a role model for Cole closer to home, a patient who apparently cured himself in a manner so successful his example could make the entire psychiatric profession redundant.

"Cantona," said the Professor, eyes twinkling at the very mention of the name. "He is absolutely fascinating. As a player he is the tops. And now he

has calmed down, he's perfect. I am very surprised he managed it. It is a very hard thing to change your personality like that and all honour to him. I wish Gazza would imitate him."

Ah, Gazza. Since the Professor is most famed for his work on IQ (this son, with whom he attends all United matches is a computer expert, and at present the pair are engaged in developing a program for intelligence testing), what does he think Gazza's rating is?

"I don't think Gazza is dumb," he said. "He has emotional problems, which is a different kettle of fish. In any case, a high IQ does not protect you from doing stupid things. Actually I don't think many top footballers are dumb, they lack education. I once talked to a chap who used to play for Everton - I forget his name now - who was doing a PhD in psychology after he retired. And you only have to hear old players talk about the game to realise they have a very intelligent grasp of what is going on. Actually I'd love to be able to test footballers for their IQ. It would make a fascinating paper. But now I am retired I don't have the students to do the leg work for me, so I don't have the time. 'Particularly since so much of his life these days is taken up by visits to his spiritual home..."

"Cantona is fascinating. It is hard to change your personality like that, and all honour to him"

way in which confidence ebbs and flows (and thus he has plenty of opportunity to undertake field work from his seat at Old Trafford on the subject of Andy Cole).

"A great deal of the game is played in the mind, obviously," he explained. "Look at Le Tissier. Last year he was out-

standing, this year he has lost heart. Loss of form must be a psychological phenomenon, because physically he is exactly the same. Cole obviously has ability, but he worries about something. That is easy to see. But helping solve those problems, that is difficult."

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standing, this year he has lost heart. Loss of form must be a psychological phenomenon, because physically he is exactly the same. Cole obviously has ability, but he worries about something. That is easy to see. But helping solve those problems, that is difficult."

Perhaps he should volunteer his services. "No, no. Most academic psychologists and psychiatrists are very poor on practical psychology. People always get quite the wrong idea. At parties I meet a girl and she says: 'You must be able to read my mind.' If only I could. I think Alex Ferguson is a very astute natural psychologist. To be so successful he must be. I'll leave it to him."

In any case, there is, Professor Eysenck reckons, a role model for Cole closer to home, a patient who apparently cured himself in a manner so successful his example could make the entire psychiatric profession redundant.

"Cantona," said the Professor, eyes twinkling at the very mention of the name. "He is absolutely fascinating. As a player he is the tops. And now he

has calmed down, he's perfect. I am very surprised he managed it. It is a very hard thing to change your personality like that and all honour to him. I wish Gazza would imitate him."

Ah, Gazza. Since the Professor is most famed for his work on IQ (this son, with whom he attends all United matches is a computer expert, and at present the pair are engaged in developing a program for intelligence testing), what does he think Gazza's rating is?

"I don't think Gazza is dumb," he said. "He has emotional problems, which is a different kettle of fish. In any case, a high IQ does not protect you from doing stupid things. Actually I don't think many top footballers are dumb, they lack education. I once talked to a chap who used to play for Everton - I forget his name now - who was doing a PhD in psychology after he retired. And you only have to hear old players talk about the game to realise they have a very intelligent grasp of what is going on. Actually I'd love to be able to test footballers for their IQ. It would make a fascinating paper. But now I am retired I don't have the students to do the leg work for me, so I don't have the time. 'Particularly since so much of his life these days is taken up by visits to his spiritual home..."

"Cantona is fascinating. It is hard to change your personality like that, and all honour to him"

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## Rangers have their eye on Wright

Scottish football

Rangers have joined the £3m chase for Ian Wright, Arsenal's transfer-seeking striker. Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, and Davie Dodds, his coach, watched the 32-year-old forward in Wednesday's

Premiership match at Manchester United.

The chance to play in the Champions League next season would appeal to Wright, while Smith is still in the hunt for a goalscorer, despite his recent buys of Peter van Vossen and Erik Bo Andersen.

Rangers have not yet made

a direct approach but their interest is known at Arsenal.

Chelsea are their main rivals, with Glenn Hoddle having made a couple of offers only to be rejected. Arsenal may be happier selling Wright to Scotland rather than having their crowd favourite playing down the road at Stamford Bridge.

## I like the feeling of being in the enemy camp

### FAN'S EYE VIEW

No 142

Stoke City

Brian Wright

Rush or Chris Waddle be prepared to end their careers playing where Stanley Matthews began and finished his?

All this begs the question: Do we want to be in the Premier League? The last time Stoke were in the old First Division was in 1985 and we were relegated with the lowest num-

ber of points ever recorded. We could do without that humiliation again.

It is here that I must confess that I am an exiled Stoke fan living in West Yorkshire, where I have been a member of the Stoke City Supporters' Club since 1973. (The match was against Manchester United - Best, Charl-

ton, Law et al - and for those like John Motson who enjoy a footballing irony United had recently signed what the programme described as "the spectacular Scottish striker" Lou Macari.)

My reasons for wishing that Stoke should remain in the First Division are purely selfish. It would mean that I could continue to watch Stoke playing at Oakwell, the new McAlpine Stadium in Huddersfield, Bramall Lane, Blundell Park, and if Leeds United got relegated next season, Elland Road.

I like the feeling of being in

the enemy camp when Stoke are playing away, though I'm not always brave enough to go with the away fans and I'm wary of being too demonstrative when the home team concede a goal.

I must also confess to enjoying what might be described as the kudos of supporting an unfashionable club - though I have discovered that it is not possible to share this indulgence with members of my family.

Above all, my reasons for wishing that Stoke remain in the First Division are practical and I hope largely unselfish. The Premier League is a different

place to the old First Division of 10 years ago and Stoke simply haven't the resources to survive there for very long though, ironically, they probably have the support.

If we do make the play-offs and get to Wembley, I would, of course, want Stoke to win and I'd expect them to take their chances in the Premier League. Though I'd hate to see them end up like Oldham, Leicester, Ipswich or Bolton.

And woe betide us if we do get to Wembley and lose, because there's nothing Port Vale fans like better than to see their neighbours soundly beaten. But we could console ourselves... We did win the Autoglass Trophy in 1992.

## Wrangle thwarts Woodhall

Boxing

Katie Woodhall was tonight left without a fight when his European middleweight championship bout was aborted in Hamburg. The German promoters could not come up with the balance of Woodhall's £181,000 purse - two-thirds of which had been paid - and Mickey Duff, his manager, felt he had no alternative but to pull out of the defence against Salvador Yanez.

Duff gave a 6pm deadline to the fight's financial backer, Katie Schwensen, to come up with the outstanding cash, but he could not find the money.

Woodhall, though, will not be financially embarrassed. The payments already made will mean that he will go back to Telford with the equivalent of £125,000 after paying taxes.

But keen competitor though he is, the Telford fighter would have preferred to expend some of his energy against the 31-year-old Chilean-born challenger. "I'm not angry, there's no point in ranting and raving because you do no good. But obviously, I'm disappointed," Woodhall said.

The initial offer from Schwensen, under the promotional banner of Duff's Lott, was a record for a European title fight and was too good to ignore.

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## Basketball

NBA: New Jersey 97 Denver 88; Chicago 107 New York 88; Los Angeles 104 Golden State 96; Seattle 104 LA Lakers 88.

World Championships (Austli): France 21-18; Argentina 18-16; Germany 18-16; Spain 18-16; Italy 18-16; Canada 18-16; USA 18-16; Australia 18-16; South Africa 18-16; New Zealand 18-16; Argentina 18-1







# The Independent Weekend

## The making of the modern girl

First in a four-part series  
Page 3



### THIS WEEKEND WHY NOT...

#### ATTEND An opera masterclass

Brigitte Fassbaender is one of the wisest of singers with a string of unparalleled interpretations of opera and lieder living on in memory and on disk. Book right away to watch her masterclasses with singers in London's most intimate and inspirational musical setting.  
■ Wigmore Hall, London W1 (0171-935 2141) Sat 3pm, Sun 4pm £9, £7

#### GO Snowboarding

The worst of the winter may have gone, but there's still plenty of the white stuff in Meribel in the French Alps, home of the week-long 1996 Playstation British Snowboard Championships beginning today. Drop everything and sample this cross between surfing, skateboarding, and skiing, the fastest-growing winter sport ever.  
■ Crystal Holidays (0181-240 1000)

#### WATCH Quiz Show

*Schindler's List* made the teeth-graspingly photogenic Ralph Fiennes a Hollywood star. Mysteriously, many managed to miss his excellent performance in Robert Redford's criminally underrated *Quiz Show*. Now you can buy video proof that Hollywood doesn't have to be brainless or witless.  
■ Touchstone, £12.99

#### TAKE The Plunge

Masks, fins, snorkels, boats and everything you wanted to know about sub-aqua diving is on display at the London International Dive Show. There's a try-out dive pool for the uninitiated and the chance to win a balmy learn-to-dive holiday for two in the Bahamas.  
■ National Hall, Olympia, London (0171-370 8485)

#### REVISIT Music Hall

Elizabeth Mansfield is finally in the West End where she belongs. Her vivid incarnation of Marie Lloyd is a real star turn, drawing audiences into the feisty, frolicking world of the Queen of the Edwardian Music Hall. Infinitely preferable to a Sunday afternoon slopping around on the sofa.  
■ Fortune Theatre, London WC2 (0171-836 2238) Sun 3.30pm

PICTURE STORY	2	BOOKS	11-13	COUNTRY	22	TV & RADIO	
THE MODERN GIRL	3	GARDENING	14	MOTORING	23		
SHOPPING	4-6	PROPERTY	15	MONEY	24-28	TODAY	32
ARTS	7-10	TRAVEL	16-21	GOING OUT	30	SUNDAY	31

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## picture story



The boulevard of Jami-Mai-Wan was once Kabul's busiest commercial district. Years of shelling and gun battles between the rival mujahedin have dismembered it. The area is heavily mined and full of unexploded shells, yet the Afghan children are so desperate for firewood that they are willing to risk their lives for a piece of timber.



Having mastered a few steps on his new leg, after months of being hospital-ridden, this boy and a therapist share laughter at his success. In Kabul, relief workers have discovered that often the handicapped are the best teachers for each other.



As the sun set over the devastated landscape of Kabul, this old man climbed to the rooftop of a bombed-out building to watch a child flying his homing pigeons above the ruins. Even in winter, the old man wears only sandals. "I have only enough money for food," he says. "If I buy socks what will I say to my children when their bowl is empty?"

## HIGH COST, NO RETURN

Over the past 14 years of war, Afghan combatants have blasted away hundreds of millions of pounds in ammunition — and have killed over 25,000 civilians — trying to conquer Kabul. To an outsider, the prize may not seem worth it. Much of Kabul has been hammered into rubble. Winters bring famine, disease and more destruction. When an Islamic militia movement known as the Taliban appeared at Kabul's gates a year ago, many Afghans greeted them as liberators, come to free them from the anarchy and death brought on by the warring guerrilla factions. Today, the Taliban have proved themselves no better than any other mujahedin faction. They, too, have become part of the chaos. In trying to overthrow the unpopular Kabul regime, they have rocketed and bombed the poor families and refugees who are cowering in the city's muddy ruins. Kabul's plight lies forgotten by all save the Afghans themselves and a few brave relief agencies.

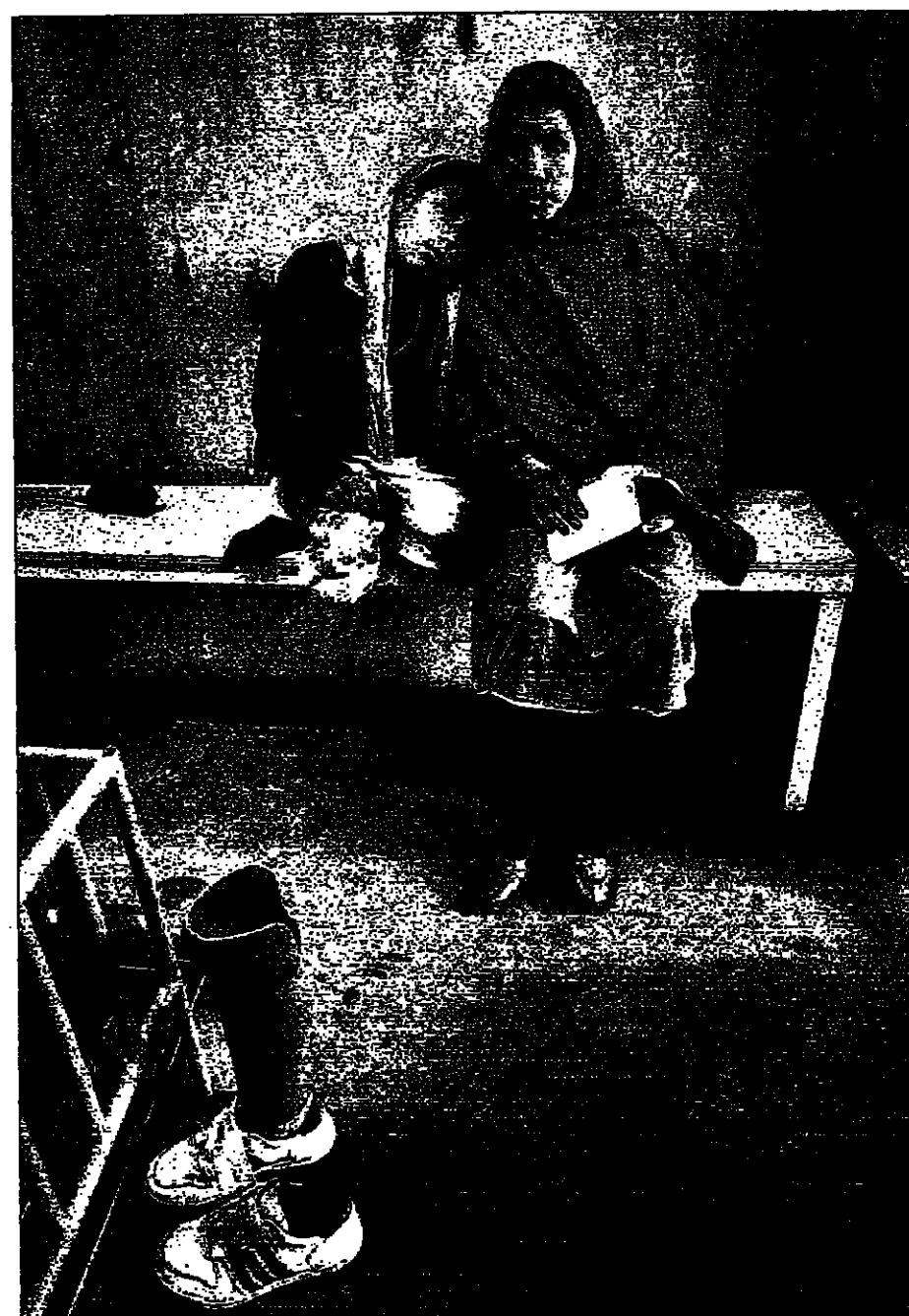
Tom Pilston, who was yesterday named Nikon Feature Photographer of 1995, spent two weeks in Afghanistan capturing the story on film. Words by Tim McGirk



A teenage gunman faces the Taliban enemy, crouched in a ruined farmhouse just 200 yards away. The youth's best friend was killed the day before by a rocket. He's tired of war but knows that if he returns to his village, the commander there will send him back to the front.



Ghulam Sadiq, 12, stepped on a mine while out scavenging for firewood. Ghulam, whose foot was blown off, was carried into hospital by his saviour, a young militiaman, who gave 700ml of his own blood.



Crippled by a landmine, a child is summoning her courage before a first go on an artificial limb. The Red Cross, which built the limb for the child, claims that fighting has left over 2 million physically disabled.



the making  
of the  
modern girl

part 1

# Daughters of the revolution

The Nineties miss has never had it so good. Or has she? In the first of a four-part series, Rosalind Miles discusses the pleasures and pressures of life for girls today

Amanda Hutt



Lips, even-knickers showing, hair and clothes flowing, she strides boldly out of the adverts down every street in the land, flounces off the pages of every woman's magazine and lords it over the late-night chat show set. By Calvin Klein out of Lady Chatterley, she is the triumph of Seventies feminism, the answer to Freud's "great question", proof that women can have love and work. She is the modern miss, and she's never had it so good.

Or has she? History loves to flirt with the idea of female freedom, only to shove women back in the closet as soon as their hour is done. From the forging of the US frontier by Annie Oakley to the British Land Army of the Second World War, there is a "now-you-see-it, now-you-don't" quality to the New Girlhood that should give us pause. Much of the hullabaloo looks like sheer advertising hype. How much of what we see in the modern maid at play can be real, and how much is just another image-maker's device to foster the illusion of progress we have not had?

Some things have changed, for sure. This is the first generation of women in history not to make getting a man, marriage and a family their sole or primary goal. Figures from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys show that the number of marriages has now slumped to its lowest for more than 50 years. The age at which women marry for the first time has risen steadily to almost 27, giving young women a decade of freedom from domesticity which most will put to the kind of personal or career development unthinkable in their mothers' day.

Today's young women also feel free to pick apart the traditional man/marriage/motherhood package, taking only the bits they want and happily discarding the rest. You want a man, but not marriage, dear? You live together, that's all.

Marriage, but not children? The 1995 survey *Hopes and Realities* by Guttmacher Research Institute showed that child-birth is falling world-wide, while figures from Britain indicate that around a fifth of today's under-21-year-old women will choose never to have children. You'd like a child but not a man, madam? We offer you the single-parent option. You'd rather not mess with a male to get pregnant? Have we got the technology for you!

Now that getting a man is no longer the main purpose of life from the age of 12 onwards, girls are free to concentrate on their schoolwork in an apparently bloodless revolution that has reversed another entire belief-system of the past. The faith in men's higher intelligence, used for centuries as the *raison d'être* of male dominance, has taken a terminal blow with this month's confirmation from the Chief Inspector of Schools and Head of the Office for Standards in Education that "girls outperform boys at 7, 11 and 14". Girls are more successful than boys at every level in the GCSE, and are now achieving success in traditionally "male" subjects like design technology, computer studies and maths. We have female astronauts and ambassadors, female weight-lifters as well as weight-watchers, women sewage-workers, CEOs and priests. No wonder girls are walking tall.

And yet. All revolutions, all calls for freedom, all movements for equality have always stopped short of sexual equality. The undoubted progress that women have made has always been in the form of "two steps forward, one step back". The girls who are succeeding academically now are also becoming 5 per cent less fit than boys, warns Professor Neil Armstrong of Exeter University in a study presented to the Government last year, through the bias of the National Curriculum towards team games "for the lads". Over-protected

by parents, girls also walk and cycle far less than boys, with the result that some 13-year-olds have only the physical maturity of girls of 9, in the least fit female generation ever known.

Worse, the girls who slog so hard at school are still held back at degree level. The girls who so easily do better than boys at A-level are still only half as likely as the same boys to get Firsts or Upper Seconds at university. And the higher, the fewer. Ninety years since the first woman professor was appointed, only one professor in 20 is female. At the end of this, girls emerge into a world where even after 21 years of effort since the first equal opportunities and pay legislation in 1975, women are still only getting around two-thirds of what a man receives for the same work. And, of course, he still needs two-thirds more leisure time than a woman, so the unfair domestic burden will smoothly fall on our young girl's shoulders as in tradition.

With these eternal and apparently unchangeable sullen realities of worklife and home, no wonder the image of the New Girl striking out carelessly into the future has proved so seductive. The New Girl expects a job which she can turn into a career, and a salary to match. She wants her own place, a car, and the accoutrements that go with her life-style, she wants the freedom to travel and the fun of having sex when she wants it and not when she doesn't, along with the right to expect "a commitment" when she is ready. What she dangerously resembles is a complete inversion, almost a parody of the most dismal stereotype of manhood, the selfish, career-obsessed, dick-driven dork who only screws and bolts.

For all her flaunted femininity then, the Wonderbra, the achingly short skirts and fuck-me shoes, the New Girl is in fact a real lad in drag. Freedom for girls must not involve aping or taking men's, especially

when the men are making such a poor showing of the freedoms they have. So far from being the stronger sex, now they have been forced from the strongholds of patriarchy men are failing in droves, as husbands, fathers, bread-winners, even as human survivors. Male suicide in the age-group 15-25 has tripled in the decades since 1950.

Today's young women have been robbed of the illusion of the powerful protector and provider. ("Prince Charming?" Angela Phillips imagines them saying, "Haven't seen him for ages"). Many now sturdily resolve to go it alone, in another eerie parody of a classic male obsession, the myth of heroic lone endeavour. This course is likely to be as difficult, dangerous and dysfunctional for most women as it always was for the desperados alone on the range. We do not win equality and fulfilment for women by re-enacting all men's mistakes. Men and women are designed by nature to share a world, and it is unreal for women to plan lives without men.

In deciding to do without men, today's girls are in effect punishing them for not being strong, capable, all we once hoped and believed they were and continually disappointed by failing to deliver. But to reject men as partners because they are biologically, socially, and intellectually weaker than women is another historical revolution with perhaps far more profound implications than those we have considered so far. Those days of devaluing the female are gone, but if our young women cannot consider sharing their lives with men - as husbands, partners or simply friends - then they are depriving themselves of the fullness of human experience, not merely condemning young men to the frozen wastes of alienation from which many do not return.

The "I'm all right, Jack" sparkly singu-

larity of today's young women holds another fear, too. Their growing-up has seen a virtual holocaust of marriage, the highest divorce rate this country has ever seen. Much of their go-it-alone thinking is seen as a triumph of feminism, the first wave of girls brought up by feminist mothers, born knowing that a woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle, and determined to go forth uncluttered to conquer the world. But many of their mothers were not victors but historical casualties of feminism, individually unable to profit from that great revolution in thought. Many of them raised their consciousness enough to leave their marriages, but not enough to stop them desperately and often unsuccessfully seeking another to take its place. They were also often too late or too unconfident to hit the newly opening career trail. They are the many bitterly discontented, divorced middle-aged women who have finished up with neither love nor work. The danger then is that today's girls are in fact living out mothers' resentments, not their own golden land-of-promise aspirations.

And all this does not even begin to tackle the intractable prospect of wanting to bring a child into a world of work that takes no account of the family needs of men, let alone those of the mothers of the future workers of the world. With the "having-it-all" formula looking more and more like "doing it all", it is clear that the modern girl still has it all to do before she can inherit the earth.

And yet. As I meet these bold, brilliant creatures who talk with such uncanny fluency, these cock-eyed optimists who take for granted what we have been trying to tell them for the past 20 years, I can't help thinking that if anyone can do it, they can.

The author is married with grown-up children. She is a contributing editor of *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

## What kind of modern girl are you?

We invite female readers aged 13-18 to fill in our questionnaire - anonymously but honestly, please - and return it by Tuesday morning. We will report your answers in the final part of our series on Wednesday. State your year, age, the type of school/college you attend, and the town or area you live in in the space provided, and send your answers to: Making of the Modern Girl, Features Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

Have you ever asked a boy out on a date?

☐ yes ☐ no

How many sexual partners have you had?

☐ none  
☐ less than five  
☐ more than five

Do you drink alcohol?

☐ yes ☐ no

If yes, what and how often?

How many cigarettes do you smoke a day?

Have you tried drugs?

☐ yes ☐ no

If yes, which ones and how often?

How much pocket money do you get?

Do you earn any money?

☐ no  
☐ less than £10 a week  
☐ less than £20 a week

Is doing well at school important to you?

☐ not at all  
☐ quite  
☐ very

What career would you like?

Would you mind if your partner earned a lot less than you?

☐ yes ☐ no

Would you mind being unmarried at 40?

☐ yes ☐ no

Would you mind being childless?

☐ yes ☐ no

Which high-profile woman would you most like to be?

Age:  
Type of school/college/job  
Town/area where you live

## NEXT WEEK IN THE MAKING OF THE MODERN GIRL

Girls at Redborne Upper-School and Community College in Ampthill, Bedfordshire, talk about how they see their place in the world



MONDAY

Sex, relationships and what boys are for  
"It would be all right if I could set down the rules. I was saying to my Mum that I'd quite fancy a weekend boyfriend who didn't get in a mood or care if I didn't want to see him in the week."  
Louise Wilson, 15



TUESDAY

How do girls get what they want?  
"Girls are better at getting their own way than boys - boys give up so easily. If their first attempt fails, girls will keep trying. And they argue better - they know what to say at the right time."  
Rachael Sanders, 13



WEDNESDAY

Where do we go from here?  
"I've always imagined myself as a powerful career woman - but then I'll think 'Oh, who wants a career? Let's just have babies!' My Mum works, she loves her job but she comes home and she's tired."  
Ruth Milway, 18



## shopping

## The fanatic's guide to factory shopping

Julie Aschkenazy meets Gill Cutress, guru of bargain hunters

Gill Cutress is addicted to bargain hunting. Yet the red sale stickers of high street shops do not tempt her. She prefers to go to the source: the factory shops. Over the past 10 years she made a career of visiting over 1,200 shops and has travelled more than a quarter of a million miles in search of the ultimate bargain.

It is in these (often well hidden) factory shops that manufacturers sell off samples, excess and returned items, ends-of-lines and those goods which fail to meet quality controls. To the general public, shoppers can normally expect to save 30 per cent, sometimes 50 per cent on the high street prices and occasionally as much as 70 per cent which Gill describes as a bonus.

"I got into factory shopping by accident," she explains. "I had been transferred to Nottinghamshire

in my job and factory shops are a way of life there. I saw a sign for one and stopped the car out of curiosity. I didn't know what a factory shop was at that stage. I found a terrific range of items and bought myself a dressing gown at a very good price. I thought: 'I'll get a book about these shops.' It turned out that no such book existed.

Redundancy from work provided Gill with an opportunity to do some hard research and put together a publication. Thus the series of *Factory Shop Guides* was born.

I had pictured a home cottage industry and was rather surprised when I discovered the Factory Shop premises were smart Clapham Mews offices where Gill and her partner Rolf Stricker, are helped by six part-timers. "It just snowballed," Rolf joined me after the first two years because I was in a state of collapse. We used to work from home but

we had computers in all the bedrooms and ended up having business meetings sitting on the edge of the bath. So we had to get premises." Everything is done in-house from research to publicity and approaching book shops.

By their nature, the shops are often situated in the back of beyond and publicity is patchy, to say the least. Some are happy to invite the public in, others are a little more sensitive as they don't want to alienate high street chains by selling direct to the public at low prices. "The sensitivity is much reduced from when I started," says Gill. "In some cases it is still there. But factory shopping is different to high street shopping. High street won't sell last season's colours or anything slightly flawed."

Although bargains range from pairs of socks upwards, the best savings can be had at the upper end of the spectrum. Designer wear,

curtains, carpets, furniture and jewellery are all excellent value. "I have had to be selective over the years. My best ever bargain to wear was a designer cashmere dress for £90 (the high street price was £450). My partner and I describe ourselves as walking rejects, everything we wear, buy for the house or put into the garden comes from a factory shop."

"One of the best buys for the house is carpeting. You may be spending several hundred pounds but at the same time you save hundreds. We bought an industrial-strength stair carpet for £40 which a hotel had commissioned. The factory was unable to stop the machines on the exact number of yards so there were overruns and remnants which we were able to snap up."

Another good reason for seeking out carpet factories is that, unlike at high street shops that have fixed stock, it is sometimes possible to become involved in the

production process. Some factory shops will oblige you by making unusual widths or dyes to your own colour specification at no extra cost. Furniture, too, is a good buy because of the big outlay-big savings equation. Another bonus is that here, too, you can sometimes have a say over the finished product - the factory might be prepared to make a piece to a particular size or stain it to match your existing furniture.

Whether it's the thrill of the chase, the adrenaline that goes with rummaging in a bargain box of designer samples, or simply a day trip out for the family, such shopping can be a very variable experience. "I once got two letters in the same post bag about the same shop," says Gill. "One said the shop was very poor, the other said 'this is absolutely brilliant - I fixed up my 10 grandchildren with shirts and socks at unbelievably low prices.' Watch out, you could get hooked."



## six of the best factory shops

Bags and luggage: Bargain Baggage Factory Shop, Bugatti House, Northam Rd, North Shields (0191 258 4451).

Carpets: Jorgus Carpets, Grimeford Mill, Grimeford Lane, Anderton (01257 482636).

Knitwear: Alan Paine Knitwear Ltd, Scots Country Store, Brighton Road, Godalming, Surrey (01483 419962).

Upholstery and curtain fabrics: Waterside Mill Shop, 359 Sheffield Road, Chesterfield, Derbyshire (01246 456886).

Glass and crystal: Calithness Glass Ltd, Visitors Centre, Inverlorn, Perth, (01738 637373).

Designer wear: Nicole Farhi and French Connection, 75-83 Fairfield Rd, London E3 (0181-981 3931 x203).

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# Purveyors of spiritually wholesome whole food

Caring, sharing and wholefoods: that's what life is about at Daily Bread, the Christian Co-operative. By Tony Kelly

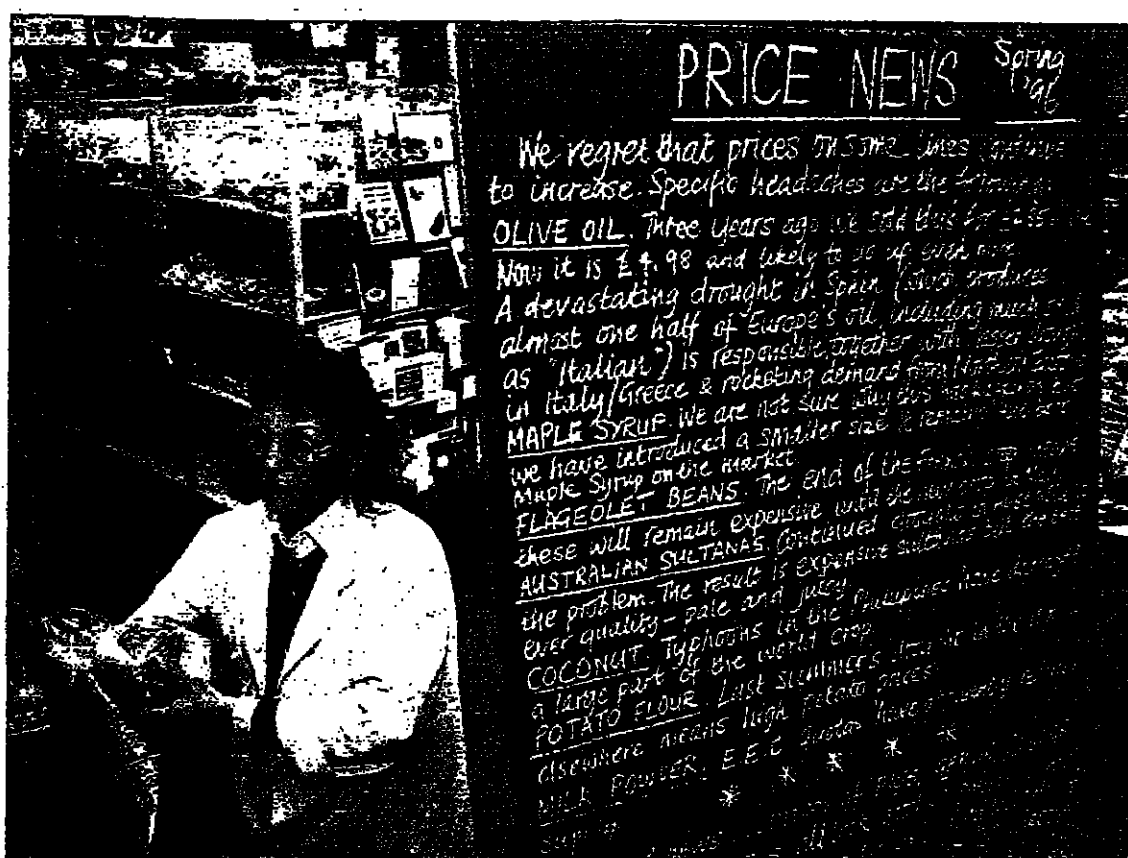
Shopping and spirituality. The two words hardly trip off the tongue together. But in a warehouse on an industrial estate on the outskirts of Cambridge, a small group of Christians is trying to show that you can be a consumer with a conscience this Lent.

Walk into the Daily Bread Co-operative and you might think it was just another wholefood shop. There are no crosses on the walls; no religious music in the background (unless the staff happen to be engaged in their daily session of worship upstairs). Tempting displays of olives, nuts and honey sit alongside vegetables from a local organic farm. A coffee shop sells home-made cakes; a Traidcraft stall has Third World crafts. And then you notice, among the Indian earnings, a selection of "Christian witness Jewellery".

"We don't go out of our way to push our Christian approach," says manager Andrew Hibbert, who founded Daily Bread after working at its sister shop in Northampton. "We hope some of the atmosphere rubs off, but we want people to come because there's something worth coming for." And, indeed, it's worth coming here for the cheapest extra-virgin olive oil in Cambridge.

A manager? In a Christian co-op? It doesn't sound quite right. "It's important to have management in any business, but all decisions are taken democratically at a weekly meeting and the tasks are genuinely shared," says Mr Hibbert. One of his jobs, for example, is cleaning the toilets. "I enjoy doing things like packing lentils and not just sitting at a desk all day," he says.

What else does it mean to run a business according to Christian prin-



It's worth coming to Daily Bread for the cheapest extra-virgin olive oil in Cambridge

ciples? "We're working towards a tithe, giving 10 per cent of our annual wage bill to charity," says co-op member Gill Barker. A proportion of profits goes back each year to the developing countries from which much of the produce comes.

Staff are all paid the same - currently £8,820 a year. "We pay ourselves enough for our need but not for our greed," says Mr Hibbert. A leaflet, which is discreetly avail-

able to customers who take the trouble to look, makes the link with scripture: "... and they sold all their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as had any need" (Acts 2.45).

"I was at a conference of Christians In Business recently," says Mr Hibbert, "and I thought to myself 'we're a damned sight more Christian than all these people who call themselves Christians In Business just because

they work in business and go to church. Our whole business ethic is a Christian one'."

In a room beside the shop, a group of people recovering from nervous breakdowns are packing muesli into bags. This is not just tokenism: they are paid the same wage as everyone else and can become full members of the co-op in due course. The long-term aim is for a 50-50 balance between "strong"

and "vulnerable" staff. There is no requirement for this second group to be Christians. "Religion and illness don't necessarily mix," says Andrew Hibbert, "and it's not right to say that you will help someone but only if he or she is a Christian."

Pam was one of the original Daily Bread workers when it opened in 1992: she is now in charge of packing and also works on the till. Both she and her husband suffer from depression and their daughter is in care. "Sometimes it's easier to give up than to keep going," she admits, but she has kept going for four years. She is now buying a house on the proceeds of her earnings.

Michael has been at Daily Bread for three months and is still on trial. "Working here has given me a purpose in life," he says. "I can go out and buy things for myself now - the other day I bought a CD and a bag for bringing my sandwiches to work." Few other businesses would risk employing people like Michael and Pam - it might not be economic.

That seems to fit with the Christian ethos. But what about the products - why concentrate on wholefoods? What is particularly Christian about brown rice and Bombay mix? "The sharing of food is a Christian thing to do; the Last Supper is an example of how to share good simple food together," says Mr Hibbert. "Wholefoods are basic foods and we sell them at a good price. By selling them in bulk we keep them cheap, save packaging and encourage people to buy in groups and share. Some of our customers get together for split-pea parties."

Daily Bread Co-operative, Kilmayne Close, Kings Hedges, Cambridge (01223 423177). Closed Sundays and Mondays.

## Six of the best Soap dishes

1 Dary Rees Original, £33  
Clear plastic soap dish inset with wire spirals and coloured glass beads. A bit eccentric but immensely stylish, although perhaps not very practical - sludgy soap gets trapped beneath its spirals. From Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1.



2 Harrods Vine soap dish, £109  
Made from resin with embedded gold leaf. Very ornate for those who think bath time is about decadence. And the price is decadent, too - if you're feeling rich this would make a good present for someone who already possesses all of life's necessities. From Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1.



3 Mac Products bath taps soap dish, £16  
This soap dish comes in white fine bone china with a green illustration of a distinguished gentleman. One for those who like the look of Victorian memorabilia. From Selfridges, Oxford Street, London, W1.



4 Metal soap dish, £13.95  
An upper tray has holes to drain away excess water on to the bottom tray. Very clinical: for those who like their bathrooms minimalist, modern and masculine. From Liberty, Regent Street, London, W1.



5 Heals, £19.95  
You can't really go wrong with this blue-and-white soap dish - it's so simple and fresh. From Heals, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 and 234 Kings Road, London SW3.

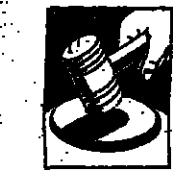


6 The Conran Shop, £6.95  
A very good price for something that looks so stylish. Rests on three pronged feet and is very user friendly as the shape is perfect for scooping out slippery soap. From The Conran Shop, Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3.



John Windsor

Stylist: Charlie Harrington



## AUCTIONS

Innocent looking tiepins become bestsellers if their settings depict blood sports

Collectables with a touch of violence seem to appeal to the British. Innocent-looking tiepins, for example, not only have a reputation as quick-thrust spy weapons but become bestsellers if their gem settings depict blood sports. A collection of 135 of them, "property of a gentleman", at Sotheby's on Thursday (10.30am) has plenty of foxes, hounds, huntsmen and game. Four fox pins, decorated with rose diamonds and cabochon rubies for eyes, are estimated £400-£600. There are also jockeys, a motor car, a champagne bottle, a monkey, and two diamond aeroplanes cost £300-£400 the pair.

The knottiest tiepins prevented the knots of 18th-century stocks (neck-scarves) and 19th-century cravats from unravelling. After the invention of the more stable Windsor knot they were used to pin tie to shirt, rescuing Victorian

and Edwardian clerks from their worst nightmare - accidentally trapping their tie in a drawer.

Sotheby's auctioneer Alexander Rhodes, author of the definitive *Hatpins and Tiepins* (Lutterworth, 1982) points out that they also legitimised the 19th- and early 20th-century male's urge to wear jewellery. Tiepin fashions closely followed women's jewellery fashions - the 19th-century cameo, for example. Sixties psychedelic ties finally swamped them, but the London silversmith Hancock's reports that young men are buying them again.

And what sort of tribal art appeals most to the bloodthirsty British? Weapons, of course. At auctions strong in tribal weaponry, a surfeit of British bidders will push up the prices of even Fijian fishing spears from their usual £75 to £750 each. Non-belligerent carved wooden

figures can fetch astronomical prices, far higher than weapons - but it is the Americans, Belgians, Swiss, French and Germans who compete for them rather than Brits.

In Edwardian times, when London tribal art sales were dominated by the British, you could buy an early 19th-century Rarotongan figure for about £3 and a New Guinea wooden war shield for 15s - not that much difference in price. Now, Continental and American refinement of taste and greater buying power has pushed the price of Rarotongan figures up to £500,000, while New Guinea shields - mostly for the Brits - have stuck at £1,000-£1,500.

The Art of Africa exhibition at the Royal Academy did little to spur the British into buying tribal art. Unlike Paris, London still has no walk-in tribal art shop. Here,

the two or three dealer-collectors trade from home. The dominance of foreign money at London tribal art auctions became most visible in December, when a rail strike in France dissuaded American and Continental collectors from including London in their traditional round trip. Takings at London tribal art auctions took a dive.

Among the more exotic offerings at Tuesday's tribal art sale at South Kensington (10.30am) is a pair of goose breast bristles from the Arucua Indians of Chile, estimated £200-£250 and a pair of Australian aborigine feather shoes (£600-£800). Australian collectors are expected to bid them up. Most rapidly rising prices are for the tribal art of South and East Africa. Wooden head-rests from there, worth £10-15 years ago, now sell for £300-£400 - due to racial reconciliation and guilt. Three antiquarian book col-

lections full of curios at Sotheby's Thursday and Friday (both 10.30am): Borneo, Napoleon and agriculture. Markham's "Masterpiece" of 1668 advising the smith, farmer and horse leech (£200-£250) shows that the 17th century farmer could teach his modern counterpart a thing or two.

Best of the rest: former trade union leader Clive Jenkins's collection of commemorative ceramics. Phillips, Monday (10am): collection of dogs and cats in art of Count Alarico Palmieri. Christie's Thursday (11am): Victorian pictures. Sotheby's Wednesday (11am), Christie's Friday (10.30am): modern Brits. Christie's South Ken, Thursday (10.30am): applied arts from 1880. Sotheby's Friday (10.30am).

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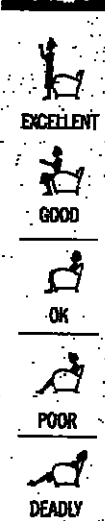








## KEY



## OVERVIEW

The resident pianist on Monday nights at the Royal Albert Hall made a rare British appearance as the final act in a European tour.

## CRITICAL VIEW

Woody Allen was underwhelmed. "The band played very competently but with no great verve or purpose. A straightforward, fast-moving, unimpassioned, enthusiastic rereading of early jazz classics. He may not be the world's greatest pianist, but he does," conceded the *Guardian*. "It isn't necessary to be a virtuoso to play in this style. It is more important to have the right feeling and strangely, angst-ridden Manhattan though he is, Woody Allen has a great feel for the music. He is a great improviser. The melodies are often lovely, joyfully and spontaneously and always naturally. But Woody and the band seem to have lost the plot." *Time* said: "Undoubtedly a better pianist than Naomi Campbell is a novelist, Woody Allen is."

## ON VIEW

Debut film can bear him in New York. Others... *Time* said: "Mighty *Apocalypse*, which... *Time* said: "Mighty *Apocalypse*, which..."

## OUR VIEW

Debut film can bear him in New York. Others... *Time* said: "Mighty *Apocalypse*, which..."

THE GIG  
WOODY ALLENTHE FILM  
TOY STORY

John Lasseter's computer-generated animated film for Disney about toys coming to life. A box-office smash in the USA: \$184,205,561 and counting. Nominated for a Best Screenplay Oscar.

THE DANCE  
DANCE BITES

New work from choreographers Ashley Page, Christopher Wheeldon, Emma Diamond and Tom Sapsford for the Royal Ballet's annual small-scale tour danced by Adam Cooper, Deborah Bull et al.

THE CONCERT  
MIKHAIL PLETNEV

Russian pianist-turned-conductor Mikhail Pletnev conducted concerts with the CBSO and the Philharmonia Orchestra playing Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov.

Stéphane Constant praised Page and Diamond, plus Sapsford's eroticism and elegance. "While this year's programme isn't exactly brimming with noteworthy new items, it seems less shackled overall by prudish conventions of what is - and isn't - suitable fodder for the ballet stage." "Diamond makes them look glorious, freezing the dance into sharp quivering angles and then letting it fly and dip on its own momentum... a piece of fine passion and austerity... Wheeldon's *Souvenir* (has) a gift for surprising detail that carries a liberating feeling of goodness," sang the *Guardian*. "Sapsford is wholly delightful... Movement is born of the music. The language is traditional but not stale: Wheeldon speaks it with his own youthful lyricism and sense of its possibilities. A charmer, charmingly danced, and I have high hopes for Wheeldon's future," cheered the *FT*.

Robert Cowan bowed before Pletnev's mastery of the repertoire. "Tchaikovsky's Third Orchestral Suite was so affectionate, playful and artfully shaped... A Rachmaninov Second Symphony that was without fuss, without cuts and without the slightest hint of disfiguring overstatement. The sort of performance that challenges preconceptions and changes minds." "Just when the audience in Symphony Hall was wondering where the next brilliant young conductor was coming from; here was a vivid demonstration that such musicians do exist," exclaimed the *Times*. "Rachmaninov's name doesn't spring to mind as one of the great wizards of orchestration, but Pletnev's performance reminds you just how subtle his use of orchestral colour can be. As a conductor, Pletnev is eccentric, erratic and often thrilling," trumpeted the *Guardian*.

Rated PG, 81 minutes long, starring Tom Hanks (in voice-over) and now at every possible cinema near you, not to mention the merchandising...

Sheffield Lyceum tonight (0114-276 9922); then touring to Blackpool (01253 28372) 25-26 March and Bath (01225 448844) 28-30 March.

The concerts are over, but listen to his revelatory recording of Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique* or his stunning set of Scarlatti piano sonatas on Virgin.

Contains that contemporary cinematic razzle-dazzle. A great 'kids' - and adults' - movie.

A mixed bag, but the cream of the company are on display, including Cooper, Durante and Mukhamedov.

The Rachmaninov CD is impressive, but live was better. A big, bold future.

## NEXT WEEK ON THE ARTS PAGES

## Monday

As the Houghlinhms and Yahoos invade a television screen near you, Michael Church reflects on the perennial accuracy of Dean Swift's satirical shafts

## Tuesday

David Cohen reviews the latest showing from Stephen Cox, a British sculptor who plies his chisel alongside India's Hindu temple masons

## Wednesday

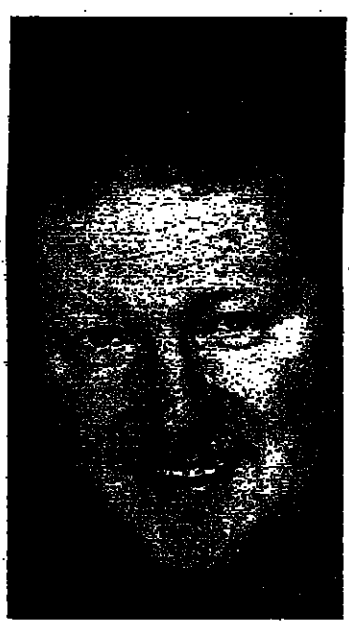
On the day that the European Court rules upon Britain's ancient blasphemy laws, Tom Dewe Matthews profiles professional pomographer Nigel Wyngrove

## Thursday

Rory Bremner (right) teaches Jasper Rees how to make a good impression on TV

## Friday

And, talking of masters of disguise, James Rampton compiles an identikit picture of Sir Alec Guinness, from *Smiley* to *Star Wars*



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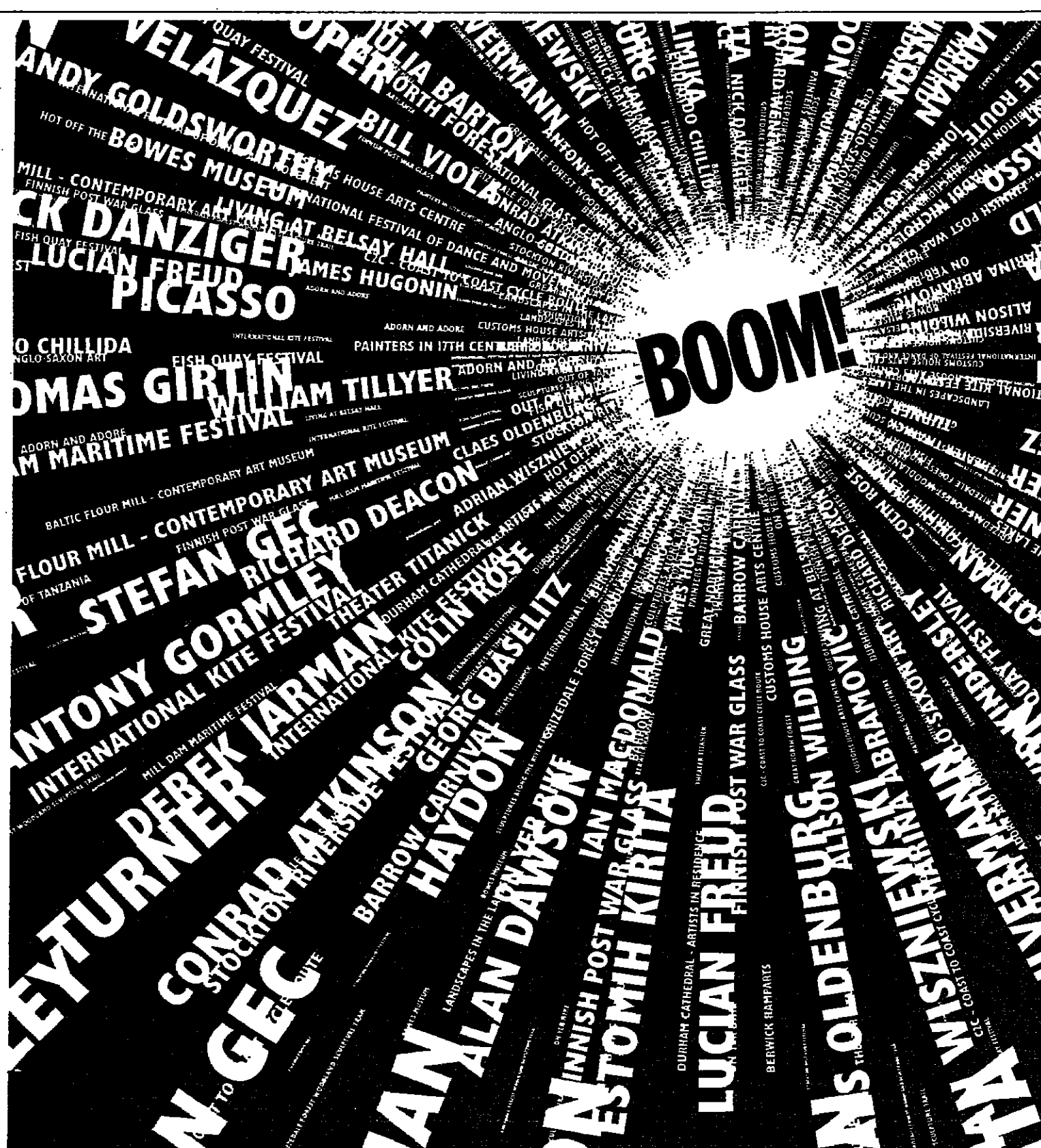


"THE PACIEST, WITTIEST, MOST ENTERTAINING ROMANTIC COMEDY SINCE 'FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL'." ★★★★★ CHRISTOPHER TOOLEY • DAILY MAIL

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## We can fantasise, but technological wizardry won't solve the problem of violence

When I was a small child I occasionally used to have a fantasy about a Universal Accountant. The occasions were invariably squabbles over equity – who had been more generous with their wine gums? Who had churlishly hoarded their Vimto while freely partaking of another's Cydrax? What was needed, I realised, was an incontestable arbiter, a divine referee who would tally every tiny, unremembered act of exchange and deliver the bottom-line – the proof that I had been insufferably wronged and that my brother should hand over some Midget Gems at once. At the time I thought God was the best equipped for this task – because of his qualities of omnipresence and divine impartiality. But it isn't essentially a religious daydream

(the opposite, perhaps, given that it's a dream of crushing vindication). It is a dream of magic, of supernatural resolution to a humanly insoluble problem.

I was reminded of this by the recent public debate over the V-chip, a cheap electronic gizmo that can be programmed to exclude violent or sexual images from a domestic television. In a perfect demonstration of involuntary reflex – the fact that a sudden impact on the body politic will produce a convulsive action without conscious involvement of the brain – several people took the view that the massacre at Dunblane constituted a powerful argument for the V-chip. Among them was David Alton, the Liberal Democrat MP who called for legislation to make its installation compulsory

in all new sets. It was that old dream of magic again. "I wish, I wish, I wish we could stop children seeing these unpleasant things," thought Alton, and then the genie in the chip appeared to do his bidding. For just 60 pence, a messy, intractable human duty – that of schooling your children in the ugly ways of the world – could be waved away, as by a wand.

It wasn't the first time that technological wizardry has been called on to make problems disappear – electronic tagging had an equally childish appeal (literally, in that case, as the idea first appeared in a *Spiderman* comic). But it wasn't long before it became clear that the invisible prison was actually the Emperor's New Building. Nonetheless, those who support the V-chip talk of it as the perfect



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

deal – a switch by means of which we can turn off moral corruption.

Naturally there is a catch, as in most bargains with genies. The objections to the V-chip proposal are fairly obvious. For one thing it has to be programmed to work, and it seems unlikely that the right people will bother. Smoke alarms are largely bought by middle-class, non-smoking home-owners, the sort of people who unplug the television before they go to bed and have furniture made out of

non-combustible hessian; smoke alarms are not big in the spending priorities of those who like to drift off to sleep on a petrochemical sofa with a can of Tennent's in one hand and a lit cigarette in the other. On a similar principle the V-chip will be employed principally by those who don't really need it, happily ignored by those who do. There are other problems – technology is notoriously turnable, particularly by bright teenagers in search of cheap kicks without all that tedious context. Besides, who will decide what constitutes a potentially deranging image? How will the V-chip's hidden controllers discriminate between *Titus Andronicus* and *Power Rangers*? Even if you support Mr Alton's aims, it must be clear that the V-chip won't advance them by a single inch – it is not a solution, just a devout wish for one bodied forth in silicon and plastic.

The knowledge hardly cancels the allure. Even though I believe that the only way V-chips could prevent a future *Dunblane* would be if you dropped a skipload of them on top of the potential psychopath, I can't quite stop myself toying with its magic, as you might fantasise about what you could do if you were invisible or, even better, were given three wishes by the bag-crone you have helped across the road.

I would like a V-chip myself for various reasons. First of all I would programme it to turn the sound down whenever the adverts appeared, so that I wasn't jarred by that sneaky nudge in volume; after that I might use it to remove

from documentaries all scenes in which the presenter travels down an American freeway while sticking through the local radio stations. I would do away with all appearances by Michael Howard, replacing him, as soon as technology permits, with an overlaid animation of Dick Dastardly, from whose mouth that creepy, rabble rousing would emerge in perfect synchronisation. I would ensure that no drama in which the characters said "We have to talk" would ever cast its flickering light over me again. I would arrange for a tasteful blue lozenge to mask the sight of Richard Branson's lower lip: whenever he appeared on screen, wishful thinking can be quite enjoyable, you see, but it really shouldn't be mistaken for a sensible policy.

## 'I'd just like to thank my hairdresser...'

Monday is Oscar's night in LA. But florists, chauffeurs, trainers have been planning for weeks. By Daniel Jeffreys

Wednesday: there's mayhem in Charlie Horky's office. "I need 10 Rolls-Royces by Monday at noon," he screams down the phone. "You promised me 10. Don't screw me."

The handset hits its cradle with a crack and the owner of CLS Transportation moves on to the next problem. By midnight on Monday, his 100 limos will have made more than 500 trips with more than 200 gorgeous stars.

It's Oscar night, 25 March. The night to see and be seen, to fret about which parties are hot and whether the dress is too tight or the wrong shade of ivory. But whatever its excesses, Oscar night could not happen without Charlie the Car. For 12 years, his limousine service has been the biggest in Beverly Hills. Roseanne has been sick in the back of one of his limos. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman made out in the back of one of his Cadillacs. Horky is a vital cog in the Oscar machine, part of an unseen army.

"Everybody has to be in their seats by 5.30 LA time because the broadcast is geared to the East Coast, which is three hours ahead," Horky says. "It can take two hours to travel three miles – the traffic jams are unbelievable. I meet with the Los Angeles police months in advance to make sure all our drivers get through. I tell all our clients they must be on the road by 3.30pm."

Horky's limousines are supplied with champagne, vodka, beer, soda and water with ice. He also carries pantyhose. "Our most common crisis is snagged tights. We keep six shades in every car. It saved Demi Moore last year."

Salvation comes in many forms. In award week, LA's A-list hairdressers, dressmakers, personal trainers and chefs are all booked solid. "We have been fully booked on 25 March for five months. It will be crazy in here," says celebrity crimp Christopher. "I close on Oscar day," shrugs hair stylist Art Luna. "I just make house calls to clients like Annette Bening."

At Fred Hayman's Hollywood store, fashion consultants have been overwhelmed since February. "This year's fashions have much more colour," says Hayman's Ayre Gill. "Sharon Stone is leading the fashion pack – her Valentino gown is a knockout."

It had better be. All the big designers compete to dress the stars. After nominations, every contender gets letters of solicitation from Armani, Versace, Richard Tyler and on, down the list. No actress pays a penny; the designers all but beg to have their frocks on display. Calvin Klein has scored big: Sandra Bullock, Goldie Hawn and John Travolta will wear his label. Unfortunately, you can also expect to see men in some wacky, not to say tacky, styles.

"The tuxedo is being re-interpreted," says Patty Fox, the Academy's fashion consultant. One can only imagine. "There will be full-length jackets, iridescent burgundy and liquid black material." Nice. At least the ladies will be spared embarrassment. "We consult with all the presenters and nominees," says Fox. "To make sure they don't turn up in the same dress." The horror, the horror.

Fashion makes a statement, flowers say. Flower Fashions in the Beverly Wilshire Hotel (the place to stay and sold out for Oscar night since last November) took delivery of five tons of extra-large Ecuadorian roses this morning. "Lots of people send out flowers on Sunday, wishing people good luck," says Fred Gibbons, who used to get orders from President Kennedy every Oscar weekend to send white roses to Marilyn Monroe.

"Sharon Stone was in here last week sending flowers to Martin Scorsese," he says. "We also send out more than 1,000 orders the day after, to all the winners and presenters. It's a little nutty, you might call it excessive. There's an atmosphere of one-upmanship. Last year we sent more than 100 different arrangements to Jessica Lange after she won Best Actress. When somebody wins, everybody wants to be their friend."

Some don't have the time to stop and smell the roses. "The moment the names are announced we get calls," says Jake at Body by Jake. "The women want to trim down in time. We have designed six special programmes combining diet and exercise that are varied to meet the size of the problem."

That can be vast. "Last year we had a big star. I can't say her name. She needed to lose 20lb in four days. We put her on the treadmill and fed her nothing but camomile tea." Jake's clients include John Travolta, Sharon Stone and Meryl Streep. "The Oscars are seen by more than one billion people; it's not the night to look flabby."

Or underdressed. Jeweller Harry Winston will make sure that every important actress at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion gets to shine like the star she is. "We meet with celebrity clients from January onwards, looking for the right styles," says Ed Callaghan at the Beverly Hills branch. "Big stones and settings are in this year."

Winston offers a great deal. His gems cost millions, but for Oscar night he lends them. "We think it is a privilege and an honour," says Callaghan. You bet, plus Harry must get a big kick out of purring over all those beautiful dames, who this year include Whoopi, Elisabeth Shue (*Leaving Las Vegas*, Best Actress), Susan Sarandon (*Dead Man Walking*, Best Actress), and our very own Emma (*Sense and Sensibility*, Best Actress and Best Screenplay).

"Miss Thompson will be wearing two-carat diamond earstuds in platinum," says Callaghan. "They retail for about \$200,000." Tip money compared to Susan Sarandon, the big favourite to win. "We have dressed her in sapphire-and-diamond bracelets with earrings to match." Price? "Oh, probably around \$1.5m."

Those who don't get invited to borrow Winston's gems have to find their own. Competition to get on his list can equal the fight for an Oscar. "Actresses have been upset," says Callaghan. "That's an understatement. One famous English actress once screamed abuse at employees for half an hour after she had not been asked to flaunt Harry's rocks."

The jewels are important, not just because of the awards; they also come in handy at the post-Oscar parties. The granddaddy, the Governors Ball, is held next to the Academy auditorium. Some of the 2,000 extra security guards hired every year will funnel the newly crowned royalty of film into an extravaganza that entered its planning stage 10 months ago.

"This year will be the most fabulous ever," says David Corwin of the aptly named Ambrosia productions. "There will be 160 tables for 1,600 guests. The centrepiece will be 5ft high with French tulips, roses in jewelled tones and green fern. The food will be prepared by more than 50 chefs."



Imagine you have just won an Oscar. You trip lightly down darkened corridors past some of the 1,200 members of the Awards' audience who don't have a ball ticket. You then enter Corwin's creation. Forty-one thousand square feet of canvas stretch the length of a football field. It has been artfully decorated with Lycra and Spandex screens to give the impression of a cathedral complete with flying buttresses.

Lighting makes the ceiling look a deep blue, like the night sky. From above hang chandeliers, each one weighing more than 1,000lb and incorporating hand-blown glass sculptures. You sit at your table and eat free-range veal followed by Oscar's favourite chocolate cake with wild berries. You are in heaven.

"The setting will cost millions of dollars," says Corwin. "Nothing like it will have been seen before. Sadly, few members of the movie-going public will get a glimpse. Cameras are forbidden – if the stars try to bring their own they will be confiscated."

The dedicated star has to make all the big parties. Miramax, with 11 nominations for *Il Postino* and *Georgia*, will hold its party in Spago's, where the legendary agent "Swift" Lazar used to hold court. After his death, the award for Best Party became an open race. The Miramax bash will be jostling with *Vanity Fair*'s

do at Morton's, the ultimate Hollywood power restaurant. Wolfgang Puck, Spago's innovative chef, is also making his duck pizzas for the Governors' Ball and has hired two helicopters to shuttle him between the two. He expects to make the journey at least four times.

"Getting the guest list right is so important," says Beth Kesniak, the *Vanity Fair* organiser. "We have had screaming matches. Last year one actress was turned away at the door holding her Oscar because a young assistant didn't recognise her. But it's a wonderful evening, nothing is overdone." Surely she jests? "I mean, I'm from New York and, yes, the people are overdone, but everything else is subtle."

Meanwhile, Emma Thompson will be fêted by Columbia at Dral's. "We have been badgered for tickets by BBC people for weeks," moans Dral's Adam Gordon. "I'm up to my ears in the BBC. Frankly, I have better things to do."

Army Archerd has covered the Oscars for *Variety* since 1972. "There is no one party that is the best any more," he sighs. "The party to be at will be the one for whoever wins."

The only people who know the winners now are Frank Johnson and Greg Garrison of Price Waterhouse. This weekend the names of this year's Best and Best that sit in a downtown bank vault. Come Monday, Johnson and Gar-

rison will take their own copies of the envelopes and place them in briefcases chained to their wrists. Then they get into separate limousines which will take different routes to the ceremony.

The show will be produced this year by the record producer Quincy Jones, who also did the honours in 1994. He began rehearsals six weeks ago. "The show is a daunting logistical problem," says Jones. "We have 22 cameras inside and three outside to make sure we get all the reactions from the nominees." All this week, cardboard cut-outs of the nominees have been placed in their designated seats and 36 actors have been hired to give phoney acceptance speeches (insiders say these are usually better than the real thing).

Fifty Oscars will be distributed in over four hours; each one took five hours to make by a hand-casting method first used in 1929. And each one is engraved with a serial number and will arrive inside an armoured car. "Once all the parties are over, this is what the winners have left," says Owen Siegel, who owns RS Owen, the Oscar manufacturer since 1963. "The flowers die. The hair falls down. The dresses go out of fashion. Nobody really recalls the parties. But when they wake up, there it is – the most famous trophy on the planet. I think that's the moment every winner always, always remembers."

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PHOTOGRAPHY MAX POPSYTHE



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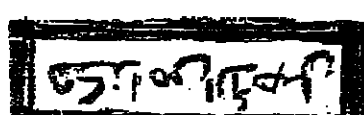
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# Confessions of a Worcestershire lad

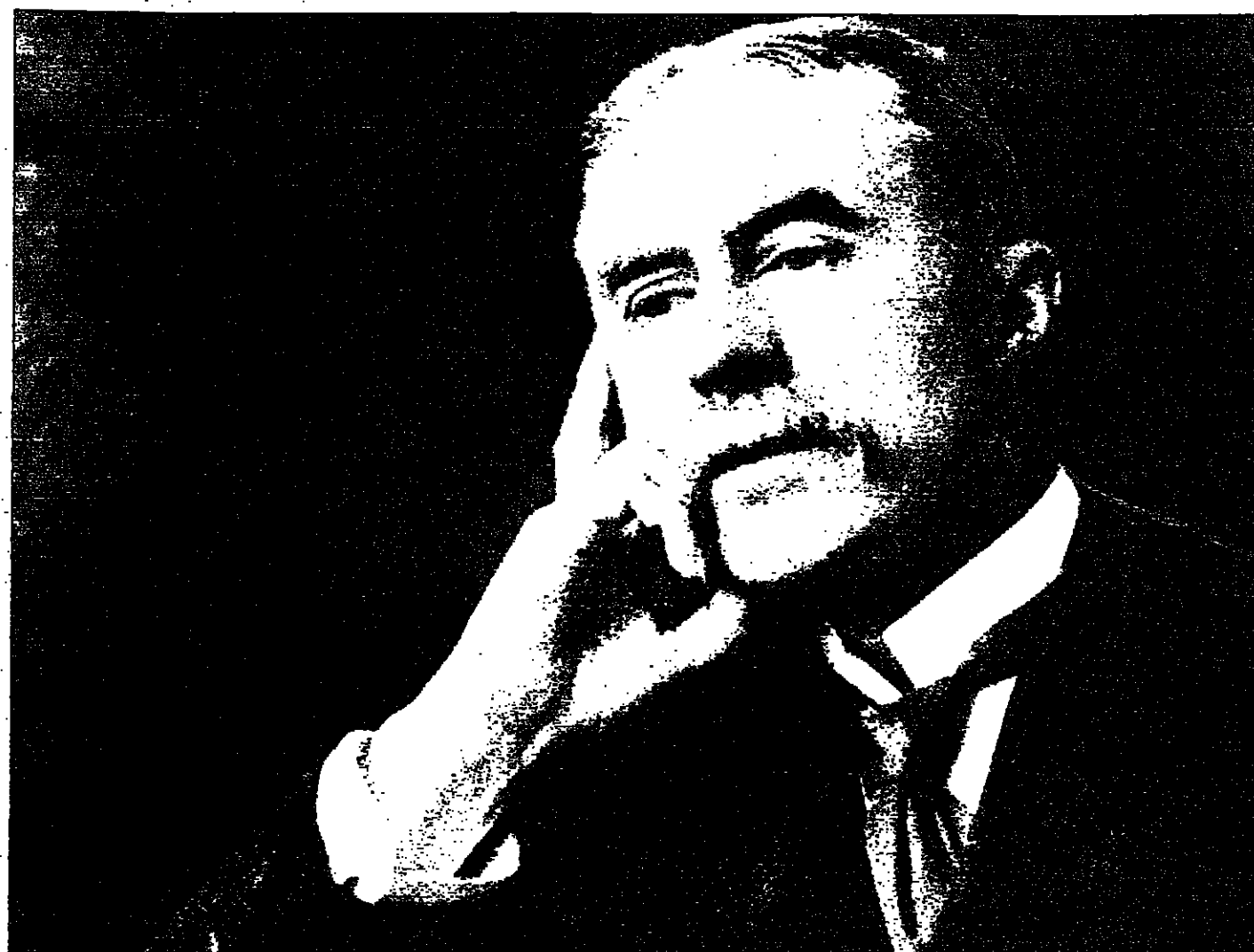
This month marks the centenary of the publication of Housman's 'A Shropshire Lad'. Here, Peter Parker re-evaluates its stoical creator

One hundred years ago this month a small volume of poems was published by Kegan Paul in an edition of 500 copies at half-a-crown each. The author, a 37-year-old professor of Latin at University College London called Alfred Edward Housman, had been obliged to pay £30 towards the cost of publication. A small, slow trickle of reviews was led by the *Times*, which, in a round-up of "Books of the Week" on 27 March, noted that: "Mr Housman has a true sense of the sweetness of country life and of its tragedies too, and his gift of melodious expression is genuine."

Other reviewers were less faint in their praise, but there is little in their pronouncements to suggest that *A Shropshire Lad* would become, and remain, one of the best-loved volumes of poetry in the language. By the end of the year its combined sales in Britain and the US amounted to only 381 copies. The first edition did not sell out until two years later, and only then because Housman's brother Laurence (also a poet) bought up the remaining copies. "So Alfred has a heart after all," a member of his family remarked after reading the book. Indeed he had, and he lost it to a man called Moses Jackson, with whom he had been at Oxford and later shared rooms in London. The majority of Housman's poems most directly concerned with this one-sided love affair were published in later volumes, but *A Shropshire Lad* is suffused with barely repressed longing for "lads" who (like Jackson) were more interested in "lasses" than in Latinists. This submerged background to the book may have been recognised by sympathetic homosexual readers, but it would hardly commend the poems to the general public, or explain why they became part of the fabric of the twentieth century.

The growth in popularity of the book was most marked during the early years of the century: in 1905 it sold 886 copies; by 1911 the average yearly sale was 13,500 copies. Sales were undoubtedly boosted by the large number of composers who made settings from Housman's poems during this period, which had seen a renaissance in British music and a rediscovery of traditional folksong. Housman deplored these settings, but never actually prevented them; indeed, his refusal to accept payment may have actively encouraged composers. Among the settings, either individually or as song cycles, are ones by Arthur Somervell (1904), Balfour Gardiner (1906), Ivor Gurney (1908), Ralph Vaughan Williams (1909), George Peel (1910) and George Butterworth (1911 and 1912). Later songs include those by John Ireland (1917), E.J. Moran (1920), Arnold Bax (1920) and C.W. Orr (1934). Although the poet did his best to avoid hearing any of them, several are very fine indeed and a number of recordings are still in the catalogue.

Few of these composers knew, or were specifically celebrating, Shropshire: Housman's adopted county had become representative of an idealised rural England. The drift away from the countryside towards the industrial towns and cities was such that, by 1911, under 22 per



City slicker: AE Housman wrote the entire volume while living in Hampstead

cent of the population lived in rural areas; but for many people, the word "England" still conjured up a vague landscape of the sort depicted in Housman's verse, and in the poetry of the Georgians, which also flourished at this period. For many people, it still does.

In search of Housman's "far country", however, thousands of pilgrims have followed E. M. Forster, who in 1907 went on a *Shropshire Lad* walking tour, noting landmarks made familiar by the poems: Ludlow, Wenlock Edge, Hughley Steeple, "Severn shore" and the "high vane" of Shrewsbury. Housman actually wrote the entire volume in Hampstead, and chose most of the place-names for their euphonious qualities.

A Worcestershire lad, he had spent his childhood on the outskirts of Bromsgrove. (The first line of one of his best-loved poems originally ran: "This time, I think, by Stourbridge town...") "I had a sentimental feeling for Shropshire," he explained, "because its hills

were our western horizon." That horizon was immortalised in his most famous poem ("Into my heart an air that kills") as the "blue remembered hills" that mark "the land of lost content", and it is phrases such as these, rather than topographical reference points, that lodge in the mind. The fact that, for instance, the church at Hughley, far from being a "far-known sign", is buried in a valley does not in the end much matter to readers – or to tourist boards who need to entice people to "Housman Country". The poet reached a geographical compromise in death: his ashes were buried in Ludlow, but in leaf-mould imported from his childhood home in Worcestershire.

By 1914 *A Shropshire Lad* entered the nation's bloodstream, and Housman's vision of "lads that will die in their glory and never be old" was about to be very thoroughly fulfilled. Many of the poems feature doomed youths, and some of them are in uniform. "Soldiers marching, all to die". Discovered in the classroom,

these verses provided models for the soldier-poets of the First World War, and we find both Rupert Brooke and C.H. Sorley delivering lectures on the poems to their schools' literary societies. In 1913 Brooke declared Housman as "the only true poet in England", while Sorley's much-anthologised "All the hills and vales along" echoes *A Shropshire Lad* in its ironically jaunty defiance.

The descendants of Housman's ploughboys-turned-soldiers populate the poetry of Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon, both of whom shared their predecessor's romantic compassion for "lovely lads" soon to be "dead and rotten". A special miniature wartime edition of the book was produced, designed to be slipped into the breast pocket of uniforms, where Housman fondly hoped it might one day deflect one of the bullets which (as Owen put it in a Housmanic phrase) "long to nuzzle in the hearts of lads". There is no record of this happening, although one of the war's most

famous poems, Patrick Shaw-Stewart's untitled verses beginning "I saw a man this morning / Who did not wish to die", was first scribbled by the author on the flyleaf of Housman's book. The *Times* printed some of the poems on a broadsheet to be distributed in the trenches and by 1918 the book itself was selling some 16,000 copies a year, despite the fact that it had doubled in price.

"My chief object in publishing my verses was to give pleasure to a few young men here and there," Housman once said. In this he undoubtedly succeeded, and many of those young men went on to be writers, thus extending Housman's influence well beyond the First World War. "To my generation, no other English poet seemed so perfectly to express the sensibility of the male adolescent," wrote W.H. Auden, several of whose early poems are modelled on Housman's. The volume's mood of romantic melancholy, its railing against the injustices of life, naturally appeals to the young, and it is in adolescence that poetry strikes home most forcefully, even among those who may never read poetry thereafter.

Boys of Auden's generation, who spent hours in the classroom studying Greek and Latin literature, were familiar, as Cyril Connolly put it, with "love and death and the fate of youth and beauty". Furthermore, Housman's language – although occasionally archaic – is straightforward, his rhythms strong, and all this adds up to a poetry of deceptive simplicity, appealing to the senses as much as the intellect. John Betjeman praised (and imitated) its "recitability", and Connolly's fellow-Etonian, George Orwell, claimed to have the entire volume by heart – although, like Connolly, he later grew disenchanted. Others didn't, and Connolly's brutal reassessment in the *New Statesman* shortly after Housman's death in 1930 caused howls of outrage. Housman continued to haunt later generations: Kingsley Amis's poem "A.E.H." is an affectionate and moving pastiche, while the work of Philip Larkin has obvious affinities of tone.

It was Larkin who observed that "Housman is the poet of unhappiness: no one else has reiterated his single message so plangently. Housman's evocation of loss – the loss of love, of youth, of life – strikes a chord with most people. While the poet's redcoats, ploughboys and "rose-lipped maidens" have long since come to dust, the feelings that animated them remain.

"I think that to transmute emotion – not to transmit thought but to set up in the reader's sense a vibration corresponding to what was felt by the writer – is the peculiar function of poetry," Housman said in a lecture. Even if we do not suffer from unrequited love, we all have our lands of lost content, and you don't need to know Shropshire or know about Moses Jackson to respond to this poetry. Housman's Shropshire was a landscape of the imagination, his book a gazetteer of the heart. Although occasionally clumsy and even absurd, *A Shropshire Lad* does what good literature should do: it transforms the personal and specific into something universal.

## A charge into the footnotes of history

The Great War changed warfare and the military for ever. Jan Morris feels a pang for the passing of the cavalry

In March 1914 the officers of the British Third Cavalry Brigade, stationed at the Curragh in Ireland, put paid to Herbert Asquith's Irish Home Rule Bill by making it clear that they would never go into action against the militant Unionists of Ulster. They doubtless agreed with their commanding general, Sir Arthur Paget, that they would not take orders from "those swines of politicians", only from His Majesty the King.

This fateful insubordination was perhaps the last decisive intervention of the equestrian classes in British history – the last insolent gesture of the knights who had for so many centuries clanked and jangled their lordly way through the nation's affairs. It opens this penultimate volume of Lord Anglesey's *History of the British Cavalry*, which also covers the first six months of the Great War, and it gives the whole book an allegorical tinge. The horsed patricians and their retainers were entering their last decade, and never again would hussars, dragoons and lancers be able to exert such moral pressure as they did at the Curragh that spring.

Nor, for that matter, would they exert decisive military pressure. At the fulcrum of the war which was so soon to break out, the cavalry would play a smaller role than in any previous great conflict. It is symbolically as well as militarily true that the last lance-to-lance charge ever made by British cavalry, by the 9th Lancers at Moncel in September 1914, was in Anglesey's words "thoroughly ineffective" (even though the 9th were led by Lieutenant-Colonel David Campbell, who had won the Grand National on The Soarer in 1896...)

This is the seventh volume of Lord Anglesey's magnificent history, and by the nature of things it is the palest. Once we are out of Ireland, into the early battlefields of the Great War, little that happens is central to great events. The cavalry formed a minor part of the British Army in France, and the British themselves, in November 1914, held only 21 miles of the western front compared with 430 miles held by the French.

**A History of the British Cavalry**  
by The Marquess of Anglesey  
Leo Cooper, £35.00

Lord Anglesey has stuck to his role as a chronicler specifically of the cavalry, giving us only the sketchiest outlines of general strategy. In recalling the opening months of the war – the first German advances, the retreat from Mons, the battle of the Marne, Joffre's great offensive – he is often reduced to blow-by-blow descriptions of skirmishes almost unnoticeable in a wider view of the conflict.

Not that the British cavalry was insignificant. It was undoubtedly the best in Europe at that time, having learnt much from its experiences in the Boer war – notably the skilful use of the rifle in dismounted combat. General Allenby indeed thought his Cavalry Corps "the best-trained officers and men that had ever taken the field in European war". If they were sometimes timidly used by the higher command (though certainly no more timidly than the German cavalry), they seem to have fought their petty actions with all their legendary flair – the "View-Halloo" spirit, brought from Galway or the shires to these more awful fields of death.

The author assures us that the cavalry action fought at Nery in September 1914, together with other generally forgotten small battles, was crucial to the entire Allied resistance in France – even, in the long run, to the conclusion of the war. Nevertheless the interest of his book lies far more in its detail than in its surmises. Throughout his immense task he has always liked to call himself an amateur, and although his volumes are scrupulously scholarly, equipped with the full apparatus of historical research, endlessly patient in their listing of units and movements, still it is his exuberant love of the subject that gives the work its unique charm.

Some of his anecdotes, it is true, seem rather less hilarious today than



'The last lance-to-lance charge of the cavalry': the charge of the 9th Lancers at Moncel in 1914

they probably did in 1914, but the book is fascinatingly full of asides, cross-references and allusions. Here are a few:

- The 20th Hussars, having no spades, dug their trenches with broken plates, mess tins, knives and forks.
- The Royal Dragoons were mounted on Basuto ponies they had brought from South Africa.
- Light-coloured horses were camouflaged with potash dye, applied with whitewash brushes.
- Sergeant Smeltzer of the 12th Lancers was given a commission: within two years he commanded an infantry battalion and had won a DSO and bar and an MC.
- The Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars were variously known as "The Agricultural Cavalry" or "Queer Objects On Horseback".

Cavalry officers sometimes relied on maps torn out of railway timetables, and spelt place-names phonetically because they knew them only from the replies of local people.

• The Northumberland Hussars Yeomanry were also known as "The Noodles".

• Brigadier-General Richard Lucas Mullen was known as "Gobby Chops".

• That's the way to serve them bastards, said Trooper Bellingham of the 1st Life Guards, having run a sur-rendering German through with his sword (he wiped the blood off on his horse's mane).

But for me it is the allegory that means most. All over Europe the cavalry was about to die, and with it the last remnants of feudalism, as of chivalry. The grey-cloaked German Uhlands, the French Cuirassiers in their plumed helmets, the English hussars with their high spirits and nicknames – all were relics of a soon-to-be-lost society, and it is no coincidence that German and British cavalry regiments sometimes shared the same Colonels-in-chief – kings, queens and princes from the doomed hierarchy of Europe.

Within a generation, most of the kings and queens would be gone, and so would the horses that were the ancient emblems of nobility. The proud old regiments would be trundling about in tanks, and Gobby Chops, The Noodles and the Agricultural Cavalry, even the Third Cavalry Brigade at the Curragh, would be hardly more than curious footnotes of history.

Only those swine, the politicians, would ride on regardless.

## A WEEK IN BOOKS

Forget the London Book Fair. Keener joys were to be had at the Publishers' Association Centenary Conference writes Richard Tyrell. This offered the sight of angst-laden publishers wondering if they should be training their reps to sell CD-Roms rather than books. They all rather missed the point.

The point was the decline of the novel and this was the topic of George Steiner's keynote address. Steiner cited a newly-discovered papyrus from the fifth-century: a critical work predicting that Homer's *Odyssey* had no future (too long, too repetitive, all those row-fingered dawns). But he also bore within him a warning from his Engineering colleagues at Cambridge. They are, he said, very close to inventing a small-scale display unit – a screen that imitates a page, clearly printed. Their units could give you access to all 14 million items in the Library of Congress. You can turn any of its pages at any speed. It's easy to carry, more responsive than any book, and just a few years away.

So what hope for traditional publishing or fiction? The novel has already been written off by none other than VS Naipaul, who said in the *Observer* last month that it began to flag after 1895. And Gilbert Adair has written of today's novelists being "failures" in comparison to the standards of Stendhal. Steiner added his voice to these distinguished writers, but there was a quiet air of subversion at the conference. Brenda Maddox, the journalist, pointed out that the IT revolution might bring new art forms, but these would take their place alongside novels, film and painting. The clincher came from Matthew Evans of Faber, who forecast that readers would simply print out texts they wanted to read – ie put them back on a page.

So finally we're down to the bottom line – who on earth wants to read books by computer? Only a masochist would sit staring at *Sense and Sensibility* on PC. The development of taste for literature presupposes the book, and once you have a taste for literature you will want to buy novels, and writers will want to write them.

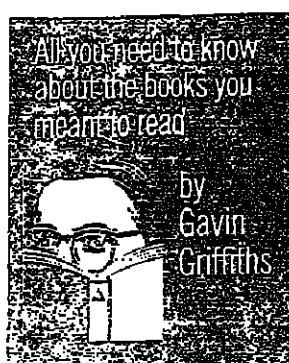
Steiner fears, of course, that the young will not develop such tastes. But this reminds me of the poet Richard Hugo, who in his last years wrote a poem giving exact instructions for his funeral in the hope that by exaggerating the event he might lessen his fear of it.

The funeral of the novel is far less certain. The safest prediction is that readers will use the witty new technology as an aide-de-camp for novels and art galleries, not as a surrogate. And books will always have one huge advantage over expensive portable technology: nobody will mug you in the subway saying "Hand over the Dickens or else..."

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## books



ANDROMACHE (1667)  
by Jean Racine

**Plot:** Pyrrhus, King of Epirus is betrothed to Hermione, daughter of Menelaus, but loves Andromache, widow of the Trojan hero Hector. Orestes, sent by the Greeks to kill Andromache's son, is in love with Hermione. Pyrrhus blackmails Andromache: either she marries him or her son Aegisthus is handed over to Orestes for execution. Under pressure Andromache agrees to the marriage, but having secured her son's safety will fill herself. Hermione meanwhile learns of Pyrrhus's plans to marry and is beside herself with fury. She tells Orestes that she will be his if he murders Pyrrhus. This he does, then returns to Hermione expecting gratitude. Instead she rebuffs him and kills herself over Pyrrhus's corpse. Orestes goes mad. Andromache, now queen of Epirus is transformed from victim to victor.

**Theme:** Love is an all-consuming emotion that is both destructive and self-destructive. Love cuts across all gentler impulses and noble ideals, leaving them scarred and maimed.

**Style:** Racine uses 12-syllable rhyming couplets with a restricted vocabulary of 4000 words (Shakespeare uses 25,000).

**Chief Strengths:** There are no villains and yet each character must bear some weight for the tragic dénouement. As the action accelerates, Racine maintains a universal sympathy while remaining icily impersonal.

**Chief weakness:** For the Francophile, the language can seem too starchy to be expressive, and the plot too didactically tidy to be tragic.

**What they thought of it then:** The play was a brilliant success. Racine's racy drama of driven sexuality made Corneille's ponderous plays of duty and patriotism seem dated and jejune.

**What we think of it now:** Along with *Phèdre*, it is one of Racine's greatest works, although British actors, trained to mouth Shakespeare, are inclined to turn the long rhetorical speeches in rant.

**Responsible for:** Craig Raine's 1953 which relocates the play's action to a post-Second War Europe where the Axis powers have been triumphant.

# Princess of Wales in extra-marital sex shock

Tactless, malodorous and embittered, Caroline of Brunswick was not a happy royal. But, says Lucy Hughes-Hallett, she was a goodnatured one

**The Unruly Queen: The Life of Caroline of Brunswick**  
by Flora Fraser  
Macmillan, £20

**P**oor Caroline of Brunswick! She is chiefly remembered for the passion with which her husband, the Prince of Wales, detested her. His words at their first meeting have justly entered the collective memory as a good joke about a hellishly bad marriage: "Harris, I am not well, pray get me a glass of brandy." (The Princess's teeth were rotting and Lord Malmesbury, who had escorted her to England, had already told obliged to give her some embarrassing intimate advice about the need to wash her person and change her stockings more frequently – advice to which she apparently paid too little heed).

Twenty-five years later the cruel one-liners were still coming. On being informed that his "bitterest enemy" (the speaker meant Napoleon) was dead, King George IV (as he by then was) exclaimed "Is she, by God?" The latter remark stands as evidence not only of his ludicrous implacability but also of his frivolity. His unloved wife was a match for him in political fecklessness.

Touring Europe in 1814, separated from her husband but still firmly intending to be Queen, and not only of hearts, she chose to socialise, to the Foreign Office's despair, almost exclusively with Bonapartes. She even

called on Napoleon's Empress Marie Louise, but the visit was not a success. The Princess of Wales yawned so hard that she and her chair toppled over backwards. She laughed uproariously. The Empress, contemplating her upended feet, did not.

It was not, though, for her failings in an ambassadorial role that this Princess of Wales was disgraced, ostracised and eventually tried in the House of Lords, but for doing what her husband had always done with impunity, engaging in extra-marital sex. Her reputation, even as a teenager, was shocking. Her future mother-in-law Queen Charlotte heard that "when she dances" (which she was seldom allowed to do) a governess followed her through the ballroom "to prevent her making an exhibition of herself by indecent conversation with men." She had already developed a wildly dangerous penchant for playing up to her detractors' worst slanders. When, at the age of 16, she was forbidden to attend a ball, she smeared

her face with white paste, took to her bed screaming, and claimed to be in labour. The ball was cancelled. Similarly, years later, she was to tease a new lady-in-waiting by referring to a protégé, who was well known to be a laundress's son, as her own bastard, and when Walter Scott came to call she whisked him off to the conservatory where she "asked me slyly if I was not afraid to be alone with her". By this time her love affairs, real or imaginary, had already been the subject of an official, though secret, enquiry. Clearly she found being stigmatised as a depraved woman as titillating as it was cruel.

She had tried being good, but her marriage never stood a chance. The Prince came drunk to the wedding, telling anyone who would listen that Mrs Fitzherbert was the only woman he would ever love. He passed out under the grate that night, and again three days later, having struck a gentleman who was trying to dissuade him from visiting his old mistress. After little more than a year of virtual imprisonment in Carlton House, with her husband's new mistress Lady Jersey as lady-in-waiting-cum-wardress, the Princess removed herself to a house in Blackheath. There, and subsequently in Kensington Palace and abroad, she led a decreas-

ingly respectable, increasingly jolly life. She liked boisterous party games, rude jokes and staying up so late as to exhaust her poor ladies. Spiteful observers remarked on her coarsening complexion and ridiculous clothes ("showing too much of her naked figure"), but clever men, writers, politicians, travellers and scholars, were drawn to her. George Canning and Thomas Lawrence were both among her alleged lovers. In Italy, once her husband's animosity had driven her to leave England, she lived comfortably if distastefully with a handsome plebeian lover, having attained, as Flora Fraser points out "perhaps the greatest liberty which any English woman enjoyed."

It was her insistence on being treated as Queen which brought about her public humiliation, with her dirty bedlinen being picked over at the bar of the House of Lords, and she herself turned away by flunkies from her husband's coronation. Her story might have ended seductively but happily enough, had she only been content to go quietly.

The parallels between her marriage and that of our latter-day Waleses are plentiful and piquant – he returning thankfully to the woman he had loved long before the marriage, she entertaining a ménage of good-looking officers and celebrities in



Caroline caricatured: 'The Effusions of a Troubled Brain' by G. Humphrey. Photo: Bridgeman Art Library

Kensington Palace, while an ageing monarch begged them both to behave. Their use of publicity was as knowing as anything we have seen recently, and as much deplored by the older generation. For years King George III would refer to his eldest son only as "The person who published my letters." The Princess put her case in a memoir; government agents spent the equivalent of £500,000, buying up copies to be burnt.

More importantly, then as now, efforts to salvage the crown's prestige came close

to destroying it altogether. Only Robert Peel seems to have had the intelligence to grasp that "to establish a principle of dethronement for personal misconduct" was to open the door to republicanism.

Flora Fraser has a nice dry wit and a finely balanced view of her subject's rather splendid silliness which makes this book, at times, very funny. Caroline was not a clever woman, nor boldly adventurous in the style of her one-time attendant Lady Hester Stanhope. When she went East it was only to

gush ignorantly – "the dear Arabians and Turks are quite darlings" – and to buy gaudy frocks. But her good nature was so great, even her husband had to acknowledge it. She seems now more attractive than most of those who condemned her. "Nothing can appear more revolting to propriety than the Princess of Wales using another person's plate," wrote one visitor, noticing her lover's (spurious) crest on the silver dishes. Nothing the princess ever did seems, in retrospect, as revolting as such petty snobbery.

## 'I might be anything. If a horse loved me, I might be that'

Meoldramatic, promiscuous and unaccountably homophobic, Djuna Barnes was always blessed with the gift of reinventing herself, says Philip Hoare

**O**f the many eccentrics that populate this academic study of a fabulous menagerie, my favourite is the Baroness Elsa von Freytag Loringhoven, whom Djuna Barnes – her principal patron – memorably described decanting from a Manhattan cab in 1919 wearing seventy black and purple anklets, a (cancelled) foreign postage stamp on her cheek in lieu of a beauty spot, and a purple wig entwined with strands from a mooring cable.

Herring's book is full of such glimpses of bohemian life in New York, Paris and London. To footnote aficionados, Djuna Barnes is an evocative name and image: her lips as pursed as those of her contemporary fellow female rebel, Nancy Cunard; both women of a hard new century who had in turn hardened themselves against the world. Barnes's background is a chronicle in itself, full of bizarrely-named relatives: Saxon, Buan and Zudel, her grandmother, a literary and sexual adventurer who had known Speranzu Wilde in London. She and Djuna shared a bed for 15 years, where Zudel nursed her granddaughter play with her breasts. Djuna's polygamous father, Wald, said either to have raped his daughter as a young girl, or to have introduced her at the age of 16 to a middle-aged family friend who took it upon himself to do the deed. Such experiences left Djuna with a permanently wounded look, and a cynical outlook on life, much

**The Life and Work of Djuna Barnes**  
by Philip Herring  
Viking, £20

of which appears to have been spent in a depressive state: "Melancholia, melancholia, it rides me like a bucking mare". Yet it is the sort of state which created great art – and Herring maintains that *Nightwood*, a Gothic narrative of sexual obsession, is a landmark of modernism. Djuna's early career progressed from decadent short stories and Beardsleyan art (lamentably this book lacks any reproductions), through daring journalism – undergoing foercedfeeding in order to write about the Suffragettes – to star writer status for *McCall's*, who sent her to Paris, the city which would fix her in literary history. She fell easily into the Lost Generation and a long succession of lovers, male and female. When asked if she were a lesbian, she replied, "I might be anything, if a horse loved me. I might be that."

The great female love of her life was Thelma Wood, with whom Djuna smoked dope and conducted a nine-year affair; she said she loved Thelma because she looked like her grandmother. Wood had already had affairs with Edna St Vin-



Djuna Barnes: sapphic rapture

cent Millay, and "on her knees proposed sex to Peggy Guggenheim" (Djuna's benefactress). She was, said a friend, "made for fucking". Together the pair were a remarkable sight; beautiful, black-caped and glued to each other's arms as they walked the Left Bank. They dined with Natalie Barney's lesbian salon, about whom Djuna wrote *Ladies Almanack*, a satire which Barney loved; *Ryder* was another satire, this time on her own family, a subject ripe for revenge in Djuna's smarting heart.

Revenge was a characteristic of her writing, a sort of post-trauma literary therapy. When Thelma and Djuna's "marriage" broke up bitterly, Barnes portrayed her savagely in *Nightwood*. The book was written partly in Tangiers – where Djuna and her latest lover, Charles Henri Ford, had been invited by Paul Bowles and where she caused comment with her blue, green and purple make-up – and partly at Peggy Guggenheim's rented Devonshire mansion, Hayford Hall, renamed Hangover Hall by its self-abusive tenants.

Afraid of Dartmoor, Djuna stayed in her roccoco bedroom and wove her narrative of the freaks of *Nightwood*. Herring's assessment of the book is incisive: "It argues that regardless of sexual orientation, human nature itself is perverted and grotesque, which is why people seek to remake themselves. We are all God's jokes." TS Eliot published it at Faber in 1936, subsequently writing a 1,500 word preface for its US publication. He liked its author so much that he kept her photograph on his wall, alongside those of WB Yeats and Groucho Marx.

Herring has taken on the mantle of Djuna's latter-day champion with evident relish and empathy. He points up the value of her work, with its bleak Nietzschean views and acidic, fantastic prose which mutated from decadence through to modernism. The high auto-

biographical content in Barnes's works is both a boon and a blessing for a biographer: switching from biographical fact to Barnesian fiction, Herring's lit crit approach can get in the way of the story. It also makes for occasional repetition, and can seem disjointed; a series of thematic essays rather than a cohesive whole. Yet these are minor caveats. Always entertaining, Herring revels in these sparring personalities of interwar Bohemia as they fight their interminable battles for superiority.

Eliot also published Djuna's verse play, *The Anaphora* in 1957. Translated into Swedish by her new friend, Dag Hammarskjöld, and premiered in Stockholm, it was a further literary revenge on her family, who had violated her person once again by sending her to a sanatorium to treat her alcoholism.

But by that time Djuna had left Europe for good, and the rest of her life was spent holed up in Greenwich Village, where she became unaccountably homophobic, hating her reputation as a lesbian writer. An attempt to write the fabulous Elsa's biography came to nothing – Djuna complained that the book kept trying to become poetry – and she published little in her later years.

Having made two attempts at suicide, she died in 1982, largely unknown and uncelebrated. Herring's book will do much to correct that sad lapse of taste on the part of posterity.

## Suburbia's lonely hearts club band

Emma Hagestadt enjoys a spooky tale of mating rituals and dating nightmares

**Dance with Me**  
by Louise Doughty  
Simon and Schuster, £9.99

**L**ouise Doughty writes about people who don't usually get written about. Young women who commute in from London's less salubrious suburbs (Catford, Burnt Oak, East Barnet) who understand the inner workings of the office PC, and buy their earrings at Next. Her heroines are self-employed information consultants who surf the Internet and are always home in time for *Brookside*.

First there's Bet. She's 27, prone to cystitis and "as promiscuous as Hell". Having lost her boyfriend, Peter who suffered a head-on collision on the Watford-by-pass three weeks after their first date, she's learning to be single again. Iris is

a paler version of Bet. She spends her weekends not in strange men's beds but moping in local cafes, worrying that she should be doing the hoovering. Instead, her boyfriend (also Peter) isn't dead, just unfaithful.

Just as you're wising up to Doughty's game, a third heroine pops up. Another Iris. This Iris has a small child (possibly Peter's),

and lives alone in pebble-dashed splendour in Burnt Oak. Doughty's intention gradually becomes clearer. Bet and Iris are ghostly imitations of each other, and before their story is over some supernatural antics are staged in spooky basements and badly-lit attics. But through all the smoke-screens Doughty throws up, one thing is apparent: all the Irises and Bets are heading for a breakdown.

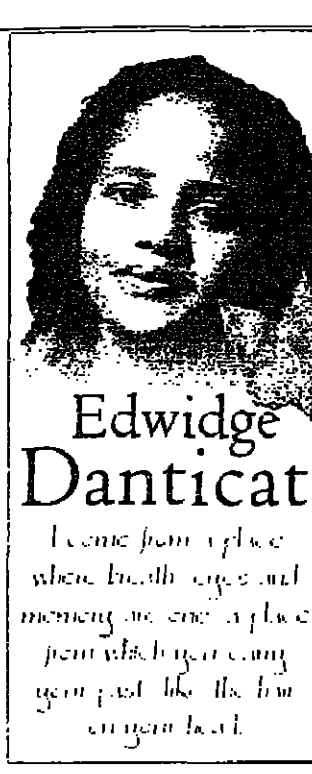
While it can't be said that dissociation is an original theme for a female novelist, Doughty gives the old chestnut a new spin, and goes on to monitor the lonesome hearts and sexual drives of twentysomething Londoners like no one else

around. Every bit as skilled as her contemporaries, Alain de Botton and Julie Myerson, her writing has a pessimistic edge which makes her books all the funnier.

*Dance with Me* is a painfully accurate record of mating rituals and dating nightmares. Iris's evenings spent playing the part of the "new" girl-friend with Peter's best friends, Alex and Sophie (a horribly smug couple "as plump and blonde" as will Bet's night with Bill, a man who after a meal at the Taj Mahal displays himself (one part in particular) with "the kind of self-regard which women have knocked out of them by the age of six."

But it's when it comes to loneliness that Doughty is at her best. There's a touching moment in the *Citie of York* pub, when Iris and her old friend George, finally acknowledge that no spark will ever fly between them. A poignant scene, particularly given the book's conclusion that being alone is enough to drive you mad.

Less ambitious than Doughty's previous novel, *Crazy Paving*, *Dance with Me* is not without its eccentricities. For all its revelling in the world of Sainsbury's aisles and Holborn wine bars it is, after all, a novel about delusions – particularly the kind women have about men.



**Breath, Eyes, Memory**  
by Edwidge Danticat  
A first novel of precocious maturity which mingles past and present, the horrors and delights of Haiti, in a quiet and dignified prose that would be impressive in a writer twice her age.  
INDEPENDENT  
ABACUS



# Collection mania

Colin Greenland on a manly tale of heartbreak

Readers put off by abstract, technical-sounding titles need have no fear. *Particle Theory* is a proper novel, more or less, and not at all theoretical, though it hums with social and psychological commentary. Alternatively, it tells two separate stories – one an old-fashioned thrilling adventure, the other a bitter modern farce – about two very different men.

As a boy on Taschia Collective Farm, Ivan Khuchievsky knows strange luminous moments when he seems able to perform supernatural feats. Some, like breaking solid furniture, leave concrete evidence. Others, like creating a kindly nurse or a city called Rubinsk in the middle of the cornfields, are, to say the least, more equivocal. In any event, Ivan knows he has a secret destiny. There is a legacy of buried icons waiting for him, and meanwhile a training of iron discipline at the brutal hands of the overseer Boris. Unfortunately Boris, who is to tell all on Ivan's 18th birthday, dies two months too soon, in a skating accident for which Ivan believes himself magically responsible.

To find his destiny, Ivan runs away, not once, but again and again, his whole life long. From Taschia he escapes to Rubinsk, from Rubinsk to the army, from the army to the West, where he is welcomed into Cambridge. Reuters sends him to Paris; he resigns to run a second-hand bookshop in London. He sets up old people's homes, then advertising agencies. He leads safaris of elderly Americans into the Serengeti, where arm-wrestling skills learned from Boris accidentally win him the chieftain of a minor tribe. He immediately abdicates to join a think-tank in Chicago. Somewhere along his tortuous way, it becomes apparent that what he is really doing is looking for Sofka, the girl who, while hiding him from the Rubinsk police, relieved him of his virginity.

Though Michael Wordingham is another orphan, his story is in strict contrast. Overwhelmed by a doting grandmother and her Polish housekeeper, a lonely refugee called Elfreda, Michael never does anything except become obese. There is one magnificent portrait: "Michael at nearly 20 was tall, oval in shape and already losing his hair in front, either because he had pulled it all

**Particle Theory**  
by Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy  
Hutchinson, £14.95

out or for hereditary reasons. He somewhat resembled a new-laid egg or much sucked bonbon. His habit of running his nails down his plump left cheek continued, and now he often ate the little rolled-up fragments from under them. He liked the salty taste."

Anal-compulsive to the letter, Michael spends his life collecting newspapers, paperbacks, bus tickets, the cardboard middles of toilet rolls. Floor by floor, he forces his granny to evict her tenants from a house in Drayton Gardens, and uses the increased space to accommodate things he finds in skips: bits of string and bottle tops; towel rails and broken hotplates. He collects his own hair, his own excretions. He catalogues his collections and records the cataloguing in his journals. Then he catalogues the journals.

This is an authentically masculine book. Ivan, the arm-wrestler, the good soldier, the dynamic executive, never runs away from anything in defeat, but always at the peak of success. Michael represents the gloomier side of the gender: self-centred, helplessly dependent, manipulative. Each man is obsessed with the woman whose fortune it will be to sanctify his life, should he ever find her. While Ivan dreams of Sofka, Michael yearns for Elfreda, and searches for her with his own mad methodicality, posting two thousand Roneoed copies of a love letter into the letterboxes of Cambridge. There is never any hope, really, for Ivan or Michael, or for us the readers. What turns out to connect the middle-class British boy and the Russian peasant is that both have given their hearts already, irredeemably.

Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy is the author of *The Rise and Fall of the British Navy*, and he has put at least eight examples of the genre in these pages. When at the end Ivan and Michael disappear from view, we know perfectly well where they have gone: back to the nursery, like all good boys.



Death's drum: like a *Ku Klux Klan* roadie, this hooded Sicilian waits to carry a drum in one of the bewildering religious rituals that, along with marriages, processions, field-work and children's games, stud the pages of *The Island of the Sicilians* (Dewi Lewis), a celebration of the work of Giuseppe Leone, the great Italian lensman. "The photographer," writes Diego Marmorio in a wildly pretentious introduction to this unsentimental portfolio, "always pictures something that has just emerged from the past and is sailing rockily towards the reefs of the future..."

## Fruity appetites

Victoria Coren, confronted by a plate of girly pornography, takes a cautious nibble

**Eat Me**  
by Linda Jaivin  
Chatto & Windus, £9.99

According to a recent feature in the *News Of The World* – brilliantly titled "Ooh, You Are Author!" – there are "an estimated five million British girls who love a dirty novel." Women's porn, it seems, is the hot new genre. *Eat Me* is not only girl-for-girl action, it's also Australian, feminist and vaguely (God help us) post-modern.

This generous helping of sauce for the goose is peppered with strident female academics and vegetarians, who meet in Sydney cafés to discuss their fantasies. Though explicitly sexual, most of these focus in some way on food – hence the title. Think women and danger, naughtiness and illicit thrills and you end up, unerringly, at the fridge door.

The novel opens with an episode involving a woman and an array of fruit: this is the Marianne Faithfull Mars Bar trick for a health-conscious generation. It sounds rather uncomfortable, if you ask me – particularly the kiwi fruit – but at least she stops short of making out with a pineapple.

The imagery throughout is all giant leeks and plum puddings. In one section, Jake "peeled off Julia's clothes as if they were the leaves of a steamed artichoke... his gaze rested on the Mediterranean caramel of her belly before proceeding down... to the folds of moist gravlax". A pretty unappetising mixture, if you think about it.

Even when the snacks are left behind, the sex scenes are too metaphorical for simple gratification. Getting it together with a Chinese circus performer, one girl confesses: "I kneel down and swallow the sword of the sword-swallower, charm the snake of the snake-charmer." Lucky for him he wasn't a ringmaster. Another obstacle to erotic success is that the novel is plagued by common sense and humour. Sinking seductively towards a lover, "the smooth soles of [Helen's] new shoes slid on the linoleum and she came in for a rather clumsy landing on his lap. 'Oof,' he cried, despite himself."

Erotica, more than any other genre, demands the suspension of disbelief and here it is undercut by earthy reason. Like most things that come out of Australia, this is funny and likeable, but deeply uncritical. Balthos and realism are the enemies of porn, that realm where fantasy swells unimpeded. There is no room for, if you will forgive me, the deflating prick.

But Jaivin's main problem is that successful porn is inherently nasty, and her attempt to reclaim it for a right-on readership is admirable but doomed. *Eat Me's* women are very sexually empowered – always on top, talking of "engulfment" rather than penetration – no thrills for the unconstructed girl here. Even the food is all trendy international deli-produce: "Camilla poked the tip of her *sumos* into her *lane* and felled the long pastry". Not so sexy with a savoy and weak tea, I guess.

Condoms interrupt the flow (yes, yes), peeping Toms pause to point out that "the women I watch are all perfectly safe", and Jaivin gets into terrible ideological confusion with an episode in which a woman hires a black slave but takes pains to stress that "we're enacting a fantasy, with his consent", thus pleasing no-one. As a literary exercise, it's all very interesting – but the fact is, you can't be right-on when you jerk off.

## Discovering daddy in the deep freeze

Miranda Seymour finds vivid characters and special pleading in a novel of gay parenthood

Readers of Michael Arditti's moving and powerful first novel, *The Celibate*, will not be misled by the title of his second into supposing that he has written about a conventional family. What he has done, as he did in that book, is to make a passionate case for the homosexual's right to love and to be loved.

The narrator, Leo Young, describes the complicated past relationship he has had with two people, Candida Mulliner and Robin Standish. Robin is handsome, Catholic and confused about his sexuality. Candida, with her admiring undergraduate friend Leo in tow, gravitates towards him out of a longing for the kind of aristocratic, ultra-English background to which she feels she has a right to belong. Leo, the shy son of a woman who runs a boarding-house and who believes in sticking to your own class, is able to view the Standishes with a critical eye and see the ugliness of their small stately home. Candida is intoxicated,

**Pagan and her Parents**  
by Michael Arditti  
Sinclair-Stevenson, £12.99

even when Lady Standish, drawing through lipstick-stained teeth, talks of a drunken husband who raped her, beat her and was finally "dragged from the mud of a drained lake, foetid in body as in spirit."

Influenced by Robin, Candida becomes a rebel; when he becomes engaged to a nice county girl, she turns up at the party to warn the fiancée that she may be in for a nasty attack of herpes. Leo, as always, looks on and is presciently warned by Lady Standish against the danger of loving anybody too much, unless he wants a broken heart.

Pagan's unhappy story begins after the slow and unflinchingly described

death of Candida. The child's father has never been named, although Candida's promiscuity suggests many possibilities. On her deathbed, Candida entrusts her small daughter to Leo, the man who has helped to bring her up and whom she identifies as a father-figure. The choice seems ideal: Pagan is a devoted six-year-old; Leo is a lonely but successful television chat-show host with a house in Kensington, a cook and infinite patience for Pagan's caprices.

The problems, and a sour form of comedy, begin when Candida's adoptive parents, never having seen their grand-daughter, decide that she cannot be entrusted to the care of a homosexual. They take Leo to court; the newspapers dig out every unlikely and plausible detail they can find to tarnish his reputation; his career is ruined and Pagan is carried off by the ghostly grandparents to be transformed into Patience and taught the art of self-sacrifice. (One nice and telling detail is the grandmother's

refusal to let her eat one of the jam tarts she is permitted to help bake for members of the St John's Ambulance Brigade.) Fortunately, the story does not end there.

Arditti is unusually deft in his manipulation of the way a narrative unfolds. In *The Celibate*, he played with different voices to heighten the suspense; here, his decision to have Leo address himself to the dead Candida allows the reader to question Leo's fascination with a character we are never allowed to meet. A whimsical blend of Zuleika Dobson, Sally Bowles and Becky Sharp, fearless and dreadful in her ability to enjoy herself at the expense of other people, Candida is a more memorable creation than poor, decent Leo.

He is almost too good to be true – he has to be for Arditti's purposes, while Candida is mad and bad enough to send Cruella De Vil running for cover. I was unsure whether I was meant to smile as unkindly as I did

when, having dreamed that she is the secret daughter of an Earl and a beautiful housemaid, she learns that her mother was a telephonist and her father a meat packer. "You mean in an abattoir?" Leo asks, trying to make things seem a little more exciting. "No," she answers, in his recollection, "there's not even any blood in it. He worked in a deep freeze."

Suspense, as with *The Celibate*, is maintained until the end, when we are deluged with as many startling disclosures as in the last pages of a good Wilkie Collins. Few, it must be said, seem wholly plausible. I don't wish to give them away, but it troubled me that Mr Arditti's determination to make Leo a stain-free hero and ideal father-figure has resulted in some over-zealous blackening of other characters. He makes sure that the case for homosexual parenthood is not only validated but triumphant. I am not convinced that he has chosen the best fictional way to win the argument.

## Paperbacks

Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst



**A Natural History of the Senses** by Diane Ackerman (Phoenix, £7.99) A big bestseller in the States, Diane Ackerman (poet, essayist and naturalist) celebrates the five senses and the "sense-luscious" world we live in with the passion of a Roman voluptuary. It's the kind of book that you can dip into at random and experience a quick sensory frisson each time: delights include Helen Keller on the "elemental" whiff of young men, the importance of the crunch factor in crisps, and why perfumes smell strongest just before a storm. Ackerman's own personal nirvana is wallowing in a vanilla-scented bath while sipping a vanilla cream setzer.



**The Trouble with Science** by Robin Dunbar (Faber, £7.99) This bad-tempered but stimulating polemic insists that science and empirical observation are basic to human life: we ignore them at our peril. Dunbar offers plenty of evidence, from the rescue of Apollo 13 to the failure of Norse colonies in Greenland. But the case is overstated. His assertion that the reaction against science began with 19th-century Romanticism is dubious. Shelley, for one, adored it. Science has gained ground ever since this book appeared last year: there is no mention of the hugely inspiring Hubble photos.

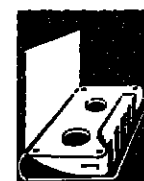


**Bosnia: A Short History** by Noel Malcolm (Paperback, £10) In this rich and fascinating work, Malcolm performs a prodigious feat in untangling arcane detail and debunking myth. The Serbs and the Croats were Slave tribes who arrived in the seventh century, but the basis of their animosity is economic (Christian peasants resenting Muslim landlords) rather than ethnic. In fact, for much of the period since 1878, the two peoples lived peacefully together. In a new epilogue taking the story to the end of 1995, Malcolm says that ethnic separation will ensure a "much more troubled future".



**The Brendan Voyage** by Tim Severin (Abacus, £8.99) The idea that the Irish made it to America 400 years before the Vikings is a thrilling one. Putting his faith in the *Navigatio*, a medieval text which describes St Brendan's voyage to the Promised Land, explorer Tim Severin and four friends reconstructed the saint's tiny ox-hide boat and put the myth to the test. Severin's account of their terrifying journey across North Atlantic is unemotionally told, but the power of his story is undeniable. The book includes the text of the *Navigatio* and extensive design notes on the boat's construction. A real boy's own adventure.

## Audiobooks



**You Magazine Short Story Collection**  
read by Janet McFie and Bill Nighy  
Snow Falling on Cedars  
read by Peter Marinker

Thirteen pointed and witty tales by such top novelists as Muriel Spark, Lisa St Aubin, Angela Huth, Ben Okri, Alan Sillitoe and Victoria Glendinning make up the *You Magazine Short Story Collection* (CSA Tapes, £7.99). The outstanding bloom in a classy bunch is Jane Gardam's "The Boy Who Turned into a Bike". This unabridged reading of David Guterson's *Snow Falling on Cedars* (Sterling, 15 hours, £17.99, mail order only from Freephone 0800

136919) has a slow build-up, but gets more and more compelling as the murder of a Japanese fisherman proves to raise extraordinary moral issues for the little Puget Sound community. Peter Marinker copes effortlessly with American, Japanese and Scandinavian accents, and he has a suppressed excitement in his voice which keeps the listener closely engaged with the story.

Christina Hardyment.

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## gardening country houses

## Is it really necessary to destroy this garden?

There are plans to build eight executive-style homes in the perfectly preserved grounds of Downe Hall in Dorset. Anna Pavord is appalled

**K**nights in shining armour are always in wretchedly short supply but if there is one cruising in the vicinity of Bridport, Dorset, would he please go post-haste to Downe Hall, an 18th-century mansion sitting on the side of Coneygar Hill, and make an offer for the place. Its owner wants to get rid of it, although it has never appeared in the pages of *Country Life* or indeed anywhere else on the open market.

Now this is not some troublesome wreck surrounded by an industrial estate. It is an elegant house, not impossibly large, and sits in the middle of gardens and woodlands so extensive you can scarcely believe that within a couple of hundred yards is Bridport's main street, another treat of 18th-century architecture.

Even more surprising, Downe Hall with its 14 acres of garden and surrounding acres of pasture and woodland has staggered through the infilling mania of the last 50 years to survive virtually intact in its design and layout since William Downe first moved here to take the sea air in 1789. The perimeter wall, a great feature of villa gardens of the period, is still protected with Portugal laurel, box and yew. There are some magnificent trees, including two enormous plane trees, rare in these parts. Some of the beech and lime date from the time the grounds were laid out in the late 18th century.

From the terrace along the south front of the house, you still get what a sales notice of 1837 described as a "bold and extensive view of the vast ocean", framed between folding cliffs. The terrace itself is the work of Edward Prior, an Arts and Crafts architect and pupil of Norman Shaw. It has great period charm, with wisteria coiling around the retaining walls and wide, semicircular flights of steps connecting the different paved levels.

Rooks still clatter about in the trees here and a pungent whiff of badger hangs in the air. Against all the odds, this house and its setting exist in a serene, untouched bubble. But at the end of this month, barring some "new material consideration", West Dorset District Council will vote on whether

to allow a local firm, C G Fry and Son to build eight executive-style homes in the grounds of Downe Hall, while converting the house itself into five flats. Eddie Fry, dubbed "the Prince of Builders" (he is the developer of Poundbury, the Prince of Wales' new-build project on the outskirts of Dorchester, Dorset's county town) is acting as agent for Downe Hall's owner, Mrs Morse-Letheren. He has persuaded local planners that this is the way to ensure a future for the house, listed Grade II\*.

Mr Fry's special relationship with the local planning authorities, made clear when I talked to Des Derrien, Director of Planning and Environmental Services at the West Dorset District Council, was built up in the wake of his successful development in the Dorset village of Abbotsbury. If development has to take place, the Council feels he is likely to make a better job of it than anyone else in the locality.

Does development have to take place? This is one of the questions that has been asked from the beginning by Bridport resident Catherine Searle, who has fought harder than anyone to find ways of preserving the entity of Downe Hall. Could not the council delay giving planning permission until the property had at least been tested on the open market? Mr Derrien voiced fears about "unscrupulous developers" getting their hands on the place, but there are laws to prevent unsuitable development. His department can enforce them.

Could not the council seek an independent assessment of the economics of the site? "Enabling development" is sometimes granted to generate the finance necessary for a charitable trust to preserve a listed building, but as Anthony Jaggard, chairman of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society has pointed out, this is not such a case. It is, as he said, "a speculative investment" not unnaturally geared to maximise the greatest possible return. But is it strictly necessary to build as many as eight houses to provide the funds to convert the house into five flats, which can themselves be sold at a profit? It is not too late once again to ask the question: is a housing devel-



Downe Hall and its 14 acres of garden and woodland have so far survived virtually intact, and remain little changed from the original design and layout of 1789. But at the end of this month West Dorset District Council will vote on whether to allow the developers in. Photograph: George Wright

opment on the scale envisaged at Downe Hall the best possible way of ensuring its future?

The Georgian Group thinks not. The Victorian Society thinks not. The Garden History Society most emphatically thinks not. David Lambert, case officer for the Society says Downe Hall is "the saddest case" that has come his way over the past year. "The structure is so little changed from the time it was laid out", he explained. "The perimeter belt is mature and unbreached by modern development. The late 18th-century trees in the park give it a very special character. The perimeter wall is intact and the house itself amazingly unspoiled by 20th-century additions."

When you look at the plans, it is

immediately obvious that the greatest harm to the setting is caused by the four houses proposed for the foreground of Downe Hall, two on either side of the presently unbroken sweep of grass and trees. If these could be done away with, then the house and garden would be very much less jeopardised than they would be under the present plans. There is a pretty lodge house which has been empty for the last 17 years and a stable yard built by Prior that could be converted instead, if the need for housing in Bridport is thought to be so great (the local paper, the *Bridport News* advertises a selection of 48 houses already for sale in the town). This is a compromise – the Downe Hall bubble would still be

broken – but it is a realistic one, if not quite as financially rewarding for the property's owner and agent.

At the meeting, now very soon, that finally seals Downe Hall's fate, members of West Dorset District Council's planning committee may like to remind themselves that it was they who first identified the special importance of Downe Hall, whose wooded grounds lick like a tongue down into the centre of Bridport. In this town, which already has special planning status as a conservation area in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, they decided that the Downe Hall site merited another girdle of protection as land of local landscape importance. Under Policy L4 of the local structure plan,

this stipulates that "development proposals which would harm specific features and qualities of local importance will not be permitted."

Do the 40 trees that must be felled to accommodate eight houses count as specific features? Does it matter that a double garage has been positioned astride the presently unbroken perimeter wall? Or that the massive yew hedge and topiary to the northwest of the house will be buried under another garage block? In this town, have we learnt nothing from the mistakes of the last 50 years? Time is running out for Downe Hall, but with strength and vision on the part of the planning authorities, it could still emerge as a building saved without a garden lost.

## How to get ahead with cherry blossom

Anna McKane offers a guide to spring flowers

**G**ardeners who like to be first in the street with the barbecue will need to choose carefully from hundreds of flowering cherries to be first with the blossom. To be certain to beat the crowd,

the winter flowering cherry is the one. *Prunus subhirtella* *Autumnalis* comes into flower in November and continues on and off until March.

This little tree has fine, twiggy branches covered in buds. It will produce as many

as three flowering spurts through the winter.

But trees brave enough to flower in the cold do not produce the huge show we expect from blousy double Japanese cherries such as the Kanzan. As a compensation for smaller

blossoms, the early flowerers have a longer season.

*Prunus incisa* is in flower in some areas now. The white-flowered *P. incisa* *praecox*, which flowers in a month-long burst around the end of February, is probably the earliest.

with a big show. It has the advantage of being small, almost shrubby, though given time it will become a small tree.

Next to flower are the ornamental almonds, forms of *Prunus dulcis*, whose flowers appear all along the branches, making them look like a Japanese painting. The most common are single, with deep pink stamens, giving the flowers a darker eye. *Prunus Kirsar* flowers at the same time, with double deep pink blossoms.

Next to flower are ornamental peaches, types of *Prunus persica*, which are like almonds in style although the flowers are generally smaller.

By late March many of the cherries will be getting into their stride, starting with the magnificent *Prunus Accolade*, with its large, rich pink flowers. These generally appear with the main show of daffodils. *Prunus Pandora* is another lovely one, with powder pink flowers.

Having chosen an early flowerer, the next consideration is a background for the blossom. With later flowering trees this may not be a problem, as by late April other trees will be coming into leaf. The best background for blossom is a blue sky, so it is worth trying to site the tree where it will be seen from below, from a path or ground floor window. The least effective background is one of bare twigs on other trees, as the blossom is lost in a middle of branches. A stuccoed house wall makes a better backdrop, or evergreen trees or, perhaps the ideal, the middle of a lawn.

There are shows of blossom at Kew, and at the Hillier Arboretum, near Romsey, Hampshire. But one of the best is at Telford, Shropshire, where a Japanese-owned firm, Maxell, started a *Prunus* collection by giving the town 1,000 flowering cherries. Chris Jones, who looks after the collection, says the best display will be in mid-April.

## WEEKEND WORK

It has been snowing here again, and sensibly few of the roses are yet showing signs of breaking into growth. Established hybrid tea roses can still be pruned, if you haven't already. The quick, modern way is to shear them over with a hedge cutter. The old way is to proceed in careful stages. Cut back any wood that is dead or diseased, making the cut just above a plump, healthy bud. Take out any shoots growing in towards the centre of the bush. Shorten the strongest remaining branches by about half, but be more savage with the spindly growths, taking them back

to about two buds from the base. Standard roses need gentler treatment. Remove all dead and diseased wood, then cut back all the remaining growth by about a third.

Tuberous begonias that have hibernated through the winter need prodding into action now. Tip them from their pots, clean off old stems and then settle them into a tray of moist compost to sprout again, concave side uppermost. A heated propagator will speed up the sprouting. When new leaves have appeared, plant the tubers in separate pots and grow them on at a temperature of around 50°F. Continue to sow seeds of

annuals such as sweet peas, tobacco flowers and petunias to set out later in the season. I have just sown seed of a perennial aquilegia called Double Pleat (Thompson & Morgan £1.89) with frilly double flowers of purple and white. Ideally seed should be sown fresh in late summer, but this does not suit seed companies. Germination is better if you put the seed, sown in a pot of compost and covered with clingfilm, into the fridge for a couple of weeks, before bringing it out in the warm. If the seed sprouts while it is still in the fridge, bring the pot out and let the seedlings grow on in a warmer place.



## CUTTINGS

I always look forward to Jim and Jenny Archibald's seed lists, as much for Jim's news items as for anything else. Fortunately he has never learnt to mince his words. The most recent list contains 26 pages of plant species from North America. Also this item: "While we have no intention of suggesting you can save the world in your backyard, a great num-

ber of rare plants species are being preserved and propagated internationally by a few thousand specialist gardeners, many of them in North America."

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were extremely local plants in the first place.

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## gardening



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## property country houses

## More than a lick of paint and a new loo

Amanda Seidl on folk who do up country houses

As Jane Austen fever continues to sweep the nation, it is perhaps predictable that sales of Georgian country houses should be soaring. But not many people can afford to buy, let alone maintain, houses the size of Pemberley or Rosings Park in *Pride and Prejudice*. Enter the developers who are making it possible for those who don't have a fortune to enjoy the style and splendour of a great house - provided they are willing to share it.

You couldn't get more stylish than the spectacular 17th-century Burley on the Hill near Oakham in Rutland. With sweeping views of Rutland Water and 400 acres of parkland, Burley is one of the finest country houses in England, but like so many of its peers, it had fallen into disrepair. Briefly the home of Cypriot tycoon Asil Nader, Burley was bought three years ago by the acknowledged doyen of country house restoration, Kit Martin, who has restored and developed it.

Despite the isolated location and prices of between £295,000 and £495,000 for the main house apartments, all 22 units have been sold even though work is not yet complete. Apart from the house's stunning situation, the popularity of the development is due to Martin's sympathetic conversion, which created elegant and spacious houses in the main wings of the mansion and cottages with gardens in the service buildings. He even returned deer to the deer park.

"It is a tremendous privilege to live in a house like this," says Tony Atwood, who bought Church Wing last year. "Instead of paying for a large garden and stables we don't use, we have put all our money into this unique house and have the use of a 400-acre estate as our back garden."

During the recession, Mr Martin was

almost alone in taking on great country houses for conversion. Burley was his 10th project and he is already working on his fourth Scottish conversion - the 150-acre Formakin estate near Glasgow, designed by Robert Lorimer in the 1900s but never completed. Prices start at £125,000 for the two-bedroom Byre House.

Converting country mansions is increasing due to the number of suitable premises coming on the market. Many great houses were converted to institutional use during and after the Second World War, and during the Eighties, many more were turned into offices or training centres. But the recession has reduced demand for both offices and training establishments, while the rationalisation of the Health Service has made many isolated hospitals redundant.

At the same time, the public's appetite for gracious living has been assisted by a general dissatisfaction with the standard and uniformity of new houses. "In the late Eighties, I noticed that while nobody seemed to have any money for new houses, there was always plenty of demand for historic properties," says Andrew Murphy of Legion Homes. Mr Murphy's observation led him to buy Wormleybury in Hertfordshire, a Grade I-listed Georgian manor house that could have been the model for Mr Bingley's Netherfield Hall in *Pride and Prejudice*.

Set in 40 acres of parkland complete with lake, ancient trees and yew walk, Wormleybury provides the space and views lost long ago to most properties in the crowded M25 commuter belt. The principal rooms, designed by Robert Adam, form the communal entrance hall and the living rooms for the main apartment. Light floods through the sash windows illuminating the carefully restored stucco designs in the Dining Room which



Wormleybury in Hertfordshire, recently restored and converted in nine apartments

Photograph: Jane Baker

comes fully decorated - including original paintings by Angelika Kauffman.

Incorporating the conveniences of modern living into historic houses is not easy, and compromises have to be made. Mr Murphy has tried to keep the ground and first-floor living rooms intact while sacrificing the lower and upper floors for bedrooms with en suite bathrooms. The apartments are duplex, which has meant fitting in extra staircases and lobbies, something frowned upon by the Georgian Group.

"It is important to work with the grain of the house," says Neil Burton of the Georgian Group, which advises the Government and councils on all aspects relating to Georgian buildings. But because most great houses have at least four storeys, vertical conversion creates apartments with a daunting number of stairs. The stairs at Wormleybury have not deterred many prospective buyers, although one octogenarian was puffing a

little on the third ascent, admits Murphy. All but three of the apartments are sold or under offer to a mix of buyers - from a young couple expecting their first child to an expatriate banker.

"The funny thing is that many of the people attracted to country-house conversions are the sort of people who, two centuries ago, would have lived in a big house," says Mr Burton.

While Mr Murphy has spent more than £1 million restoring the house and converting the interior into nine apartments, the previous owners have built themselves a house in the former orangery and are converting the courtyard to a new-style house. Five new houses have also been built and sold in the paddock beyond the gardener's cottage so that Wormleybury will soon support a cosy hamlet around St Lawrence's Church.

From the builder's point of view, it makes sense to put in as many units as

English Heritage and local planners will allow, and as long as the new houses do not intrude on the setting of the great house, there are benefits, too: maintenance costs can be spread more thinly.

The Georgian Group is not enthusiastic about additional houses in the grounds of listed houses. "We are much happier about the conversion of houses to multiple occupancy than conversion to an institutional use, because it is a fairly low-intensity use," explains Mr Burton. "But we are against enabling development on the whole because it is almost impossible to build new houses in the grounds without compromising the character of the original house."

Undaunted by the problems thrown up by conservationists, Mr Murphy is looking for another country house to convert. "It definitely beats sitting in a portable office on a housing site," he says.

## For what it's worth

Things are looking up, according to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, who report sustained improvement in the housing market in the first three months of the year. This contrasts favourably with the depressing autumn report last year which said there was little sign of an upturn in the housing market. Falling interest rates and competitive mortgages are two of the reasons for the improved activity.

Yet better sales do not mean better prices. Quality period properties are showing the best increases but agents warn against unrealistic pricing. Mark Everett of Michael Everett & Co in Surrey voices the general opinion: "Overpriced property is sticking badly. Accurate pricing is vital."

A widespread shortage of good houses on the market, particularly in the South East and South West, is also affecting prices. Devon and Dorset have enjoyed a record first quarter.

Agents remain cautious about another false dawn and will be watching the Budget for anything that might damage the fragile market. "Don't get too excited," warns Tony Gray of Fraser Wood in the West Midlands. "It's not so much a 'feel good' factor but rather an 'I don't feel too bad' factor."

## Who's moving

Summer has become synonymous with Sarah Ferguson, who was brought up in the Hampshire village. The Cottage which belonged to the Duchess's grandmother is up for sale. A pretty thatched, four-bedroom, three-reception room house, it has recently been renovated, rethatched and redecorated and sold through John D Wood (0162 86131) for £310,000.

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# Take two travellers, give them two hundred pounds, and

You have cash, a few clothes and a passport. How far can you get, and how good a time can you have, in 48 hours? We set two Independent writers the task of finding out, each seeking to outdo the other and set a new trend for instant travel.

The rules: Claire Gervat and Simon Calder were each allowed £200. They started out at dawn on Saturday morning, from Victoria station in central London, aiming to get as far as possible and back in 48 hours. The money had to cover everything: transport, food and drink, accommodation, and entertainment. Both decided that the best bet for an instant cut-price getaway lay at Gatwick, but their paths diverged even before leaving Victoria...

## The Ticket

I once carried my passport around with me for a year because I was so enthralled by the idea of being able to take off at a moment's notice. When it came to it, the reality was slightly less romantic, at least at first. Dawn on Victoria Station after a late night is not the time to go running around saving a pound here or there. I leapt on a Gatwick Express (£8.90), which was just leaving and arrived at Gatwick at 7am.

I had only light hand luggage and what I was wearing (jeans, plus T-shirt under shirt-jacket under padded jacket) seemed likely to adapt to most places I was likely to go. I couldn't go too far, otherwise I'd spend the whole weekend on a plane, and I couldn't go anywhere that demanded visas. It seemed likely that I'd end up somewhere in Europe, though I hoped it might be somewhere like Istanbul or Funchal in Madeira - at the very least somewhere warmer than London.

In the end I had to limit my ideas. My first stop at Gatwick was the Thomas Cook stand, where I sat going through the list of possible destinations. Charter flights were more or less out, as I had to be back for work on Monday; but the scheduled fare to both Funchal and Istanbul was more than £300. Other destinations were too expensive or too full. If I'd gone to Heathrow, I could have flown to Lisbon for £111, but I wouldn't have arrived until the evening. However, at Gatwick I struck gold - Madrid for £101, including tax. A quick visit to Flightbookers yielded nothing better, so back I went to buy my ticket.

The flight was at 8.45am, so I had just enough time to grab a can of Coke (45p) to stave off hunger before boarding. The heaviest thing I was carrying was the *Rough Guide to Europe*, which I already owned; but there are several shops at the airport where you can buy a guidebook to wherever you end up going.

## The Holiday

At the airport in Madrid I changed £80 and got 14,354 pesetas (one peseta more to the pound than in Gatwick).

The airport bus to the centre of town took less than 20 minutes, so I was soon walking along Calle de Fuencarral, just off Gran Vía, which the guidebook said was a good place for cheap hotels. At the fourth attempt I found a single room for £16 in the two-star Hostal Medieval (whose fixtures, thankfully, were modern), a family-run place in the heart of the Malasaña district. The owner took me off for a strong coffee in the next-door café and issued stern warnings about pickpockets, especially in the Rastro flea-market every Sunday morning.

In the end I didn't go there, because so much else appealed. I went to the Prado to look at the Goyas, El Greco, Velasquez and Bosch. I visited the Reina Sofia Art Centre, which houses Spain's main modern art collection. I wandered round the Botanical Gardens to see the first of the spring flowers. I went for long walks in the Retiro, a huge park to the east of central Madrid; on Sunday especially, the sun shone and the Madrileños were out in droves, listening to buskers and sitting in open-air cafés in the park. I also spent plenty of time sitting in cafés, lapping up the sunshine and watching the world go by, with a glass of something and a tapa or two.

## The Return

I had enough money left over for a taxi to the airport (2,500ptas), which is just as well as I didn't have the energy to do anything else after all that walking. The flight was on time, so I was back at Gatwick by 10pm on Sunday. I had £10 left: fatigue and self-indulgence won out over frugality, so I caught the Gatwick Express back to town. It had been a perfect weekend: fine art, sunshine and café society. Only one problem: it did make Monday morning that little bit grimmer.

Where the money went: Train from Victoria to Gatwick: £8.90. Flight to Madrid and back: £101. Can of Coke at Gatwick: 45p. Purchase of 14,354 pesetas: £80. Train from Gatwick to Victoria: £8.90. Total: £199.25.

Claire Gervat



Sunday in the Retiro park, Madrid, and the entertainers are out in force

Photograph: Claire Gervat

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# ...but someone has to do it

Sue Wheat meets three people who make a living by, and for, skiing

They think it's all over, or at least it soon will be. Though the prospects for Easter look good, most northern hemisphere skiers are waiting the thaw and a long, warm wait until next season. Yet for some people a week a year is just not enough. They make a living by, and for, skiing.

## THE INSTRUCTOR

Diane Henderson



Diane went out to San Carlos de Bariloche in southern Argentina as a nurse, doing night shifts so she could ski by day. But the pull of the mountains was too much and she exchanged tending those who had injured themselves skiing to trying to prevent them from having to go to hospital at all - by becoming a ski instructor. "I did a local guides course to learn about the area, and when I got fed up with nursing, someone suggested I use my guiding skills as a ski instructor. So I spent a season teaching South American kids aged between two and nine how to handle having sliding feet."

"It's hard work, but great fun. The first class is at 9am and you usually have six or seven people. In the busy season, you probably have half an hour for lunch and go back to teaching again until about 4.30pm. In the evening, you join other instructors or skiers you've met. It's really sociable, but you have to remember you're a professional, too - you can't go too mad or you'd never be able to get on the slopes in the morning."

For enthusiasts who can't bear the thought of packing their skis away for summer, South America is the ideal place as the season starts just after Europe's ends. "A lot of ski teams from the northern hemisphere train here, but it's less well known for Europeans, many of whom want a summer holiday in the summer. The atmosphere is different - Latin Americans definitely have more fun."

## THE OPERATOR

Debbie Marshall

Your run to the slopes could start in Surbiton, the home of Crystal Holidays - where every day is focused, snowflake sharp, on winter. Debbie Marshall started working with Crystal Holidays seven years ago, when the company just had one chalet in France. Now she is programme director for France - Crystal

Holidays' biggest destination. The company now takes 90,000 people skiing a year to France, Austria, North America and Italy.

"Each winter season starts as soon as the previous season ends," explains Debbie. "After the winter, we start recruiting for the next season and hire about 300 staff as reps, resort managers, chalet girls, chefs, nannies, maintenance people and head office staff. Almost all staff recruited are British but they need to speak French, ski proficiently and have the right kind of personality for the job - you could say they're our ambassadors."

"The contracting programme starts in December until the end of the season, contracting chalets, apartments and hotels; at the same time, we start brochure production. Our first brochure will be out in two weeks, and there are two more editions through the year. Before the season starts, there is a massive training course for everyone we've recruited, then the first arrivals come in the first week of December. We have a few quiet weeks, then Christmas and New Year, which are enormous."

Courchevel is proving the most popular French resort, followed by Meribel and La Plagne, and the nuclear tests in the Pacific don't seem to have prompted clients to give France a miss. "The main problem seems to be the franc at the moment, rather than the



nuclear testing," explains Debbie, "but people who really love good skiing will always go to France."

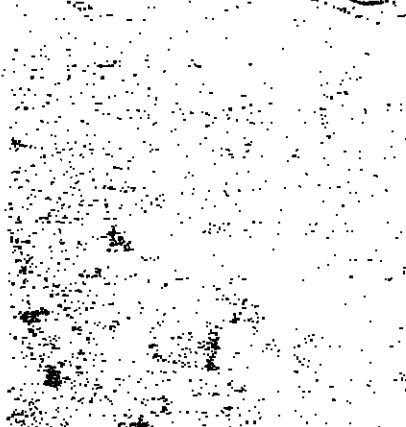
## THE CHALET GIRL

Bridget Collyer

If you spent the winter cooking, cleaning, mothering in a surrogate fashion and being an all-round good egg, you might be counting the days until the season ends. But Bridget Collyer doesn't regret being any of those things.

She was recruited by Bladon Lines to work in Verbier, an upmarket and lively resort in Switzerland. "Basically, I was hosting a week-long house party every week. It's a really special week for everyone - it's their holiday, they've saved for it, they love skiing and they probably want to party as well," so it has to be good.

"A day in my life as a chalet girl meant being up at 6.30am with the five other chalet girls I lived with



Ski mania: a job in the industry means you can make the ski season last all year

and walking to the chalet via the bread shop. Then I'd cook breakfast, make the packed lunches while everyone was eating and bake a cake or biscuits for afternoon tea. After that, I'd wave them off on their day's skiing, making sure no one had forgotten their ski pass, and tidy the chalet. I'd go skiing from about 11.30am until 4pm and then go back to give them afternoon tea, and prepare the evening meal - which had to be good. Then I'd go back to my apartment for a while, and later back to the chalet to cook and serve the three-course dinner. It was a party every evening - every chalet had unlimited wine included in the price."

Was there nothing she didn't like



about making endless home-made cookies, drinking unlimited free alcohol, skiing five hours a day, one of the most beautiful resorts in the world and meeting hundreds of people her own age? "No," says Bridget. "I loved it - it was the best job I've ever had." Photographs: Colin McKillop, Geraint Lewis, Kalpesh Lathigra



Photograph: Jess Stock

## Snow report

What a wonderful thing is Valitude. Throughout this mild and quite sunny week (as in the previous week), altitude has been the key to good skiing conditions wherever in the Alps you looked. Sunshine also mattered, of course; powdery snow was to be found pretty well exclusively on north-facing slopes, and the only resort-level runs worth risking your skis on skiing were those shaded by mountains or trees. There was some snow early in the week in most French and Italian resorts, and in some Swiss ones, but not it was enough to have any impact on conditions: to find good skiing this week, you had to find slopes where February's snow is still lasting well. As I write, on Friday morning, there is wet snow falling here in Klosters, following a dusting overnight; but the forecast doesn't encourage hopes for the decent dump of snow that would be very welcome in most parts of the Alps as Easter approaches. The Pyrenees continue to offer Europe's best all-round conditions, with good snow depths and rather lower temperatures than in the Alps. Meanwhile, winter still rules in north America: Colorado and Utah resorts offer low temperatures and good conditions after snowfalls early in the week, and more fresh snow was expected this weekend in both the east and west of the Continent - giving a welcome boost to Whistler/Blackcomb, in particular, and to the New England resorts.

Chris Gill

"Adventurous and romantic as any legend"

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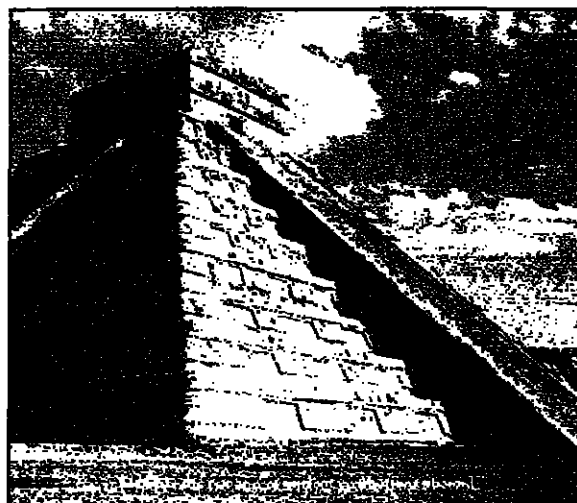
Eclipse Direct brings you a tour of the real Mexico - a tour that enables you to experience the true flavour of a country steeped in history and high in excitement and adventure - followed by a relaxing week in one of Mexico's most glamorous resorts, Puerto Vallarta, flanked by beautiful beaches and the Sierra Madre Mountains.

Day 1. International arrival Puerto Vallarta. Transfer to your hotel for 'Welcome' dinner.

Day 2. Puerto Vallarta - Mexico City. Transfer to the airport for flight to Mexico City. Tour of Mexico City: Zocalo area; the Metropolitan Cathedral; the National Palace; Chapultepec Park; the Residential Zone; and Anthropology museum.

Day 3. Mexico City - Taxco. Visit the ancient plazas and avenues of Teotihuacan civilisation; visit the Sun and Moon pyramids of Quetzalcoatl. Travel to Xochimilco, once home of the Chinampas.

Day 4. Taxco-Puerto Vallarta. Discover the charm of Taxco. Drive through the heart of Mexico. Continue on to the state of Michoacan, and city of Morelia; visit the Cathedral in



### 7 NIGHT TOUR ITINERARY

the Plaza de los Martires. Continue to Patzcuaro.

Day 5. Patzcuaro. Visit Lake Patzcuaro and take a boat to Janitzio Island, inhabited by the Tarascan Indians. Afternoon in Tzintzuntzan. Overnight in Tzintzuntzan.

Day 6. Patzcuaro-Guadaluajara. Two nights in Guadaluajara. Lunch in Tlaquepaque. Arrive late afternoon in Guadaluajara.

Day 7. Guadaluajara. Walking tour of Guadaluajara; the Cathedral of Assumption; Governor's Palace; the Orphanage; and the Theatre Degollado. Free afternoon to explore.

Day 8. Guadaluajara - Puerto Vallarta. Leave hotel late morning to travel back to Puerto Vallarta, stopping at Tequila for a short tour of the plantation and lunch. Arrive Puerto Vallarta early evening.

Day 9. Puerto Vallarta. Transfer to your hotel for 'Welcome' dinner.

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Day 77. Patzcuaro. Visit Lake Patzcuaro and take a boat to Janitzio Island, inhabited by the Tarascan Indians. Afternoon in Tzintzuntzan. Overnight in Tzintzuntzan.

Day 78. Tzintzuntzan - Patzcuaro. Transfer to the airport for flight to Mexico City. Tour of Mexico City: Zocalo area; the Metropolitan Cathedral; the National Palace; Chapultepec Park; the Residential Zone; and Anthropology museum.

Day 79. Mexico City - Taxco. Visit the ancient plazas and avenues of Teotihuacan civilisation; visit the Sun and Moon pyramids of Quetzalcoatl. Travel to Xochimilco, once home of the Chinampas.

Day 80. Taxco-Puerto Vallarta. Discover the charm of Taxco. Drive through the heart of Mexico. Continue on to the state of Michoacan, and city of Morelia; visit the Cathedral in

the Plaza de los Martires. Continue to Patzcuaro.

Day 81. Patzcuaro. Visit Lake Patzcuaro and take a boat to Janitzio Island, inhabited by the Tarascan Indians. Afternoon in Tzintzuntzan. Overnight in Tzintzuntzan.

Day 82. Tzintzuntzan - Patzcuaro. Transfer to the airport for flight to Mexico City. Tour of Mexico City: Zocalo area; the Metropolitan Cathedral; the National Palace; Chapultepec Park; the Residential Zone; and Anthropology museum.

Day 83. Mexico City - Taxco. Visit the ancient plazas and avenues of Teotihuacan civilisation; visit the Sun and Moon pyramids of Quetzalcoatl. Travel to Xochimilco, once home of the Chinampas.

Day 84. Taxco-Puerto Vallarta. Discover the charm of Taxco. Drive through the heart of Mexico. Continue on to the state of Michoacan, and city of Morelia; visit the Cathedral in

the Plaza de los Martires. Continue to Patzcuaro.

Day 85. Patzcuaro. Visit Lake Patzcuaro and take a boat to Janitzio Island, inhabited by the Tarascan Indians. Afternoon in Tzintzuntzan. Overnight in Tzintzuntzan.

Day 86. Tzintzuntzan - Patzcuaro. Transfer to the airport for flight to Mexico City. Tour of Mexico City: Zocalo area; the Metropolitan Cathedral; the National Palace; Chapultepec Park







# Plastic men, plastic cats and dogs

Britain's newest theme park doesn't officially open until Friday. But Tracey Garner got a sneak preview, thanks to her son Jack

Modern-day theme parkery is a funny business. We send a Brit, Trevor Davies, to mastermind the year-long culture thrill ride in Copenhagen. European Capital of Culture for 1996. In return, Denmark sends us Legoland. The maker of the plastic bricks has a long-established original in Billund, a small town in the middle of Jutland (and nowhere). The Danish invasion is the latest attack in the theme park war that is gathering momentum and g-forces across England, a country already endowed with a much higher occurrence of thrills per hectare. Can Denmark's audacious opening next week – so close to Her Majesty's home – attract the nation's fun-seekers? I took my son Jack, aged eight, to find out.

Lions, polar bears, lizards and the like can still be found on the old Windsor Safari Park site, but these are now creatures of the Lego kind – painstakingly pieced together out of millions of those little plastic bricks, which many a mother will recognise as the things that hurt like hell when you tread on them and are a nightmare to get out of the Hoover's innards. The preview day on Saturday, ahead of next Friday's public opening, was exclusively for members of the Lego Club. It was billed as an opportunity to road test the park – in trade terms, a "soft opening" to iron out problems before the big day. Pay the discounted admission of £10, and be among the first kids on the new blocks.

So all the people who flooded in at 10am last Saturday were already Lego aficionados. The models certainly lived up to their expectations. Attention to detail is paramount: bright plastic birds in the trees, an injection-moulded boy attempting to retrieve his kite from the roof of a building, even a built-by-numbers dog relieving himself against a real tree. Twenty million bricks alone are used to recreate the cities of Europe, not counting the ones that are no doubt stuck down the back of the company sofa.

But putting the bricks to one side for a moment, what else is there to do at this latest addition to our growing band of theme parks? If you go expecting white knuckle rides and roller coasters, you'll be sadly disappointed. Rides are few and far between, and unashamedly aimed at the under-12s. The chance to drive your own Lego car (with the promise of a driving licence at the end of it) and piloting a boat along a snaking river were probably the most popular attractions, and the queues built up quickly. A hot summer Sunday could be quite an ordeal.

There are several areas for children to play with bricks. One excited chap grasped a couple of motorbikes, rooming them enthusiastically along



Piccadilly Circus built by numbers at Legoland's latest venture in Windsor

a mini road with full sound effects blasting from his mouth, while his son played quietly in the corner. As ever, the children's adventure play area falls in the way of many theme parks: a serious lack of seating for parents (the ones who don't happen to be playing with bricks).

Every theme park has to have live entertainment, and Legoland's are a mixed bag. The harbour show was superb, with five enthusiastic sailors enacting the Mystery of the Missing Lego Bricks (down the back of the sofa, surely?), and leaping into freezing water from the top of a 30ft light-house to rapturous applause. It's probably best to draw a veil over the other shows in the hope that when "Overture and Beginners" is called on opening night, the acts will have been polished up.

And beware of the maze: it's not as tame as first appearances might have you believe. The Dances obviously get a kick out of sending jets of water up the trouser legs of unsuspecting visitors. Few found it funny on a freezing March afternoon, including the toddler found in the ladies toilet whose Mum was des-

perately trying to dry off his clothes under the hand dryer.

The Lego Shop – which is strategically positioned at the exit – stocks an unequalled range of all things Lego, from computer mouse mats to a £35 tie. But from about 4pm onwards the shop and its tills seemed



Eight-year-old Jack, impressed by Danish building techniques

inadequate under the challenge of hordes of departing visitors digging deep into their pockets. I'm sure I wasn't alone in promising my eight year old a trip to Toys 'R' Us the next day instead of standing in the unenviable queue.

When it came to sampling the restaurants and cafes we breathed a sigh of relief that we'd opted to bring our own picnic. Queues did trail out of the doors, but as the day was heavily billed as "a chance for us to try out procedures", grumbles about inexperienced staff and equipment failure can be forgiven as teething problems.

However, the most important opinions are surely those of loyal Lego Club members. Eight-year-old Jack, who should own shares in Lego if the thousands of bricks piled up in his bedroom are anything to go by, had this to say: "I thought the models were excellent. They had lots of detail, lights flashed on them and some moved, like the giant spiders legs. My favourite models were in the Technic rock 'n' roll band which were worked by a Lego mechanical system. It must have taken years and years to

build all the models. The shop should be bigger to take all the people. The panning for gold, which cost £1, made my hands cold, but I got a Lego medal for the gold I collected. I loved my driving lesson, but I was sad there weren't any big rides like the ones at Thorpe Park."

It's good to welcome a new theme park to add to the "How do we entertain the kids over this school holiday" list, but Legoland Windsor's failure to provide enough entertainment for the adults and older kids bodes ill for return visits – seen it, done it, what's next?

**Starting blocks:**  
Legoland Windsor (0990 626375) opens to the public at 10am on Friday morning and daily thereafter until the end of September, plus weekends and half-term in October. The park closes at 6pm, with late opening to 8pm in July and August. Adults £15, children aged 4-15 £12, aged 3 or under free. Discounts of £1 if you book in advance on 0990 626364.

Photograph: John Lawrence



SIMON CALDER

What Anne East of London had planned was "The trip of a lifetime for my 83-year-old mother", using a Eurostar train from London to Paris. What she got was a 20,000 Seconds Under the Sea nightmare. Question: was she offered in compensation (a) nothing; (b) a form with which to apply for a voucher that might lead eventually to a replacement ticket; or (c) full recompense for all the money she lost plus four free return tickets to Paris?

The answer is "all three", but (c) was achieved only because of Ms East's persistence and refusal to be palmed off with excuses. Now we all have grumbles about flaws on our travels, and most of the time the best solution is to grin and bear it (and possibly vow to stay at home next time). But sometimes events go so calamitously wrong that anything short of generous redress is a scandal.

So it was in Ms East's case. I shall spare you every detail about her trip from Waterloo to Calais and back; suffice it to say that at precisely the moment she and her mother should have been in Paris, they were only arriving in Ashford. This, as it turned out, was the highlight of the trip. Once the train entered the Channel Tunnel, it developed a fault and all the lights were turned out to conserve energy. After a total of 16 hours, of which six were spent in the tunnel, Ms East and her mother arrived back at Waterloo. It was 2.30am.

We were offered a taxi home, but no one mentioned anything about how Eurostar might make up for this disastrous journey. In the end I asked a customer service representative, and was handed a form to apply for a voucher. Tired and hungry (the last sandwiches having been eaten 15 hours earlier), Ms East was in no mood to argue. But the following day she wrote to European Passenger Services, which runs Eurostar in the UK, asking for more reasonable compensation.

Nothing happened for a week, save for her telling the *Independent* what was going on. Then the telephone rang. It was Eurostar's finance director, apologising for the series of blunders and agreeing to meet Ms East's claim in full. He also threw in a couple of free trips to the French capital. Commendable customer relations eventually, but if Ms East had not made a fuss she might have been left with nothing.

One reason Manchester is officially England's "top tourist town", as we reported last week, is the welcome shown to visitors. The award prompted Chris Walsley of London to write with his own experience of the citizens' generosity.

"I was standing on a busy main road in Manchester in the pouring rain with a suitcase at my feet. A man driving a brown Datsun pulled up, leapt out, grabbed my case and only then explained that he was giving me a lift to wherever I was going."

"Since my mother never advised me against accepting lifts from strangers, I got in and was driven, unsolicited, halfway across Manchester to Victoria station. When the driver asked me where I came from I said 'near Watford' and he replied 'Someone's got to live there'. When I asked him where he came from he said 'Salford Quays'. I kept my mouth shut. I still wonder who he thought I was."

A Northwest Airlines flight from Gatwick to Minneapolis flew into turbulence at Christmas when a party of travellers let the party spirit get the better of them. A group of passengers became rowdy and started throwing food at cabin crew. The flight attendants refused to serve them any more alcohol, so the parents deployed their children to steal liquor from the drinks cart and a bit of a fracas began. Now a Surrey discount agency, Media Travel, has taken up the theme with its brochure of cut-price tickets to North America. The small print warns transatlantic passengers that "All fights (sic) must take place between 8 January and 28 March".

Summer has arrived for many of Britain's theme parks, though snow was still on the ground at Alton Towers in Staffordshire (0990 204060) when it opened for business last Saturday. Instead of unveiling a new thrill ride, this season the main attraction is the new hotel adjacent to the site. The Alton Towers Hotel will remain open all year; the theme park closes on 3 November. Drayton Manor (01827 287979), close by at Tamworth, opens on 30 March.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach, which celebrates its centenary this summer, is offering all rides for 50p each today and tomorrow. This deal includes the Pepsi Max Big One, Europe's highest roller coaster, normally priced at £3.50. Prices revert to normal from next weekend.

On the east coast, the Magical World of Fantasy Island (01754 872030) opens weekends only until 5 May, plus the whole of Easter week. The new attraction is "the world's first indoor hot-air balloon experience", enabling you to float to the top of the glass pyramid that houses the park.

In south-east England, both Chessington World of Adventures (01372 729560) and Thorpe Park (01432 569393) open their gates today, through until the end of October.

The Field Studies Council's field centre at Slapton Ley, south of Totnes in Devon, will offer thrills of a more sublime kind when courses for adults begin on 19 April. The first option, "Birds of South Devon", is already sold out, but other events during the summer at the centre include a Photographic Safari (28 July-2 August, £185) and "Dart to Plymouth – exploring the South Devon coastline" (23-30 August, £245). Call 01548 580466 for more details.

Air travellers from Devon have a new link with Dublin from 31 March, when Jersey European (01392 360777) begins operating flights between Exeter and the Irish capital. The lowest return fare for the 80-minute hop from Exeter to Dublin is £104 (including tax) if you stay over a Saturday night.

A good beach guide is included in the new North Cornwall holiday brochure, which is available free by calling 01208 261229. It recommends Summerleaze beach in Bude as ideal for families, but warns that Bedruthan Steps, near Padstow, is dangerous: "A place to look at rather than to sunbathe on."

York is the venue for a literary weekend from 26 to 28 April, organised by Ways With Words (01803 867311). Sarah Kennedy, Jane Gardam and A S Byatt are among the speakers at the Dean Court Hotel (where the event is based) and St William's College. The price per person is £195, based on two sharing.

The "Learn at Leisure" programme of the University of Nottingham includes a weekend in Dorchester investigating Thomas Hardy and Tess (24-27 May). Call 0115-951 6526 for details.

Last week Cheshire County Council won the England for Excellence "Tourism for All" award for doing most to help less able travellers. The council has just published a *Welcome Guide* to the county for visitors with disabilities. Regular, large print and tape versions are available free from Cheshire Tourism and Marketing, Goldsmith House, Hamilton Place, Chester CH1 1SE.

English Heritage begins its programme of events aimed at "Bringing History Alive" at Easter, with 15th-century music at Helmsley Castle in North Yorkshire and falconry at Battle Abbey in East Sussex. Special Events Line: 0171-973 3396.

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# 'If you have to call reconstructing sheep shelters art, well, that's all right by me'

The sculptor Andy Goldsworthy is turning part of Cumbria into a sculpture park. By Rosie Millard

The sculptor Andy Goldsworthy is celebrating the Millennium by reconstructing a hundred stone sheep shelters in Cumbria. He is best known for the transience of his work (arches of ice carved at the North Pole; a curtain made from hand-joined twigs and leaves of sycamore) but this project, he hopes, will last at least another millennium. "Ephemeral work is my core nourishment," he agrees. "But it's about the past. A moment that's gone. Sheepfolds is about the future; it's something launching us into what's to come."

Indeed, the recent past of the Cumbrian sheepfold is a pitiful one. Once an essential part of hill-farming, these small walled constructions appeared on fells and local villages in their hundreds. There were three distinct varieties: sheepfolds were for keeping the sheep together; wash-folds were for annual washing prior to clipping; and pinfields, built in villages, were holding-pens for stray or stolen sheep.

Yet modern sheep-farming, all wire fences and chemical baths, meant farmers stopped the labour-intensive practice of going on to the fell to tend their sheep. So the little stone folds, used for thousands of years to wash, shelter and number their woolly inhabitants, have been abandoned and left to decay.

Goldsworthy's project hopes to redress this. An initiative by Cumbria County Council, Northern Arts and the Lottery, Sheepfolds is a £620,000 project to bring back some of the folds to the hills, albeit for aesthetic rather than agrarian reasons. "I'm working where the existing folds used to be," says Goldsworthy, who is rebuilding all three separate types with the expert help of local dry-stone wallers. "I'm rebuilding folds which lay on the fell, or by drove-paths, by rivers, and in the centres of villages. I'm repairing folds with the stones left lying around, or where I have to start from scratch, I'm bringing in local stone."

In each he is placing an abstract piece of sculpture: a monumental stone, perhaps, or a cone made from carefully placed layers of stones. "Each fold will contain a work which will be discovered by people when they look inside. Many people won't even know it's there. I could have easily put in something which poked out and dominated everything, but I wanted it to be subtle, and quiet."

Indeed, the entire procedure, whilst not exactly stealthy, has been organised in an extremely low-key manner. "We sought a general blessing and it was on that basis that we proceeded," says Cumbria's public art consultant Steve Chettle. The hill farmers who own the land were individually canvassed. "On the fells, in their kitchens, in their barns. We went and found them all. In the rain, in the snow. Public art in any landscape, not least the landscape of Cumbria, is a sensitive issue," says Chettle, understandably wary of wrecking the spectacular landscape of the Lakes. "We had to take in the particular qualities of Cumbria."

The idea seems to have worked. "I'm not against old walls put back up again, by any manner of means," says hill farmer Bob Cuddy, whose thousand Herdwicks are just about to start lambing in Borrowdale Valley. "If you have to call it art, well, that's all right by me. I'm all in favour of old folds and washes. It's a grand thing. The artist, well, he's doing his thing and

he's giving our local lads a bit of work. It's better than other arty stuff that's here," continues Cuddy, shuddering at the memory. "We've a Thing, and I'll call it a Thing, imported into our dale from God knows where — the centenary of the National Trust. It's as much in keeping with the Lake District as a low-flying jet."

Not everyone is so positive. "He's had a lot of publicity," says Bampton hill farmer Peter Allen. "But I just wish it drew attention to the difficulties of working on the land as well as to his art. And why can't he just do one, not a hundred? Have you got 100 Rodin sculptures in the country?"

Well no, but some think the number and presence of Sheepfolds will draw attention to the problems and peculiarities of Lakeland hill farming. "Rural landscape is geriatric," says Andrew Humphries of Newton Rigg in Mungresdale, site for the first finished Goldsworthy fold. "We just patch it up and repair it. This gives us a chance to make new marks in the landscape, which both echo what went before, and give it a newly sustainable element."

According to Humphries, the project will usher in eco-friendly tourism to the tourist-blighted Lake District. All the folds are being built on, or near public rights of way and the public will be encouraged to visit them via a series of postcards helpfully marked with Ordnance Survey Grid reference numbers.

"People who visit the Lake District will now have a chance to explore and understand what they have come to see. The culture and people of the hill farmers," says Humphries. "It's difficult to see it in a vacuum, but if they can see something like the restored folds, it'll seem to matter. The Cumbrian sheepfolds are the only survivors

Above: each recovered sheepfold hides a work of art  
Below: the sculptor Andy Goldsworthy, in his studio



Photographs: Craig Easton

ing examples of community farming in England. They were built on common land. If people get excited about the flora and fauna of Cumbria, they'll look after the orchards here; but these folds and washes are our last vestiges of common land use. They've survived for over a thousand years, and until now, no one's looked after them. This will help people value them."

Indeed, there's even a suggestion that with Goldsworthy's sheepfolds,

tourists might learn to empathise not only with the farmers but with the sheep themselves. Dry-stone waller Joe Smith is working with Goldsworthy on the project. "To me, a wall, or a fold, is a functional thing. But one day we were in one of Andy's Mungresdale folds, tying up a few things. We sat down to have our sandwiches," says Smith. "And do you know, some Swaledale sheep came in. They weren't sent in, or herded in. They just came in. Just like

that. They were interested. They wandered in, and wandered out again. And do you know," continues Smith, "I can envisage people doing the same thing. Wandering in, scratching their heads and wandering out again. Brilliant."

More information about Sheepfolds is available from Steve Chettle, Cumbria Public Art, The Old Stables, Redhills, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0DT.

## COUNTRY PURSUITS



Steve Ralphs, Bowyer, Norfolk

For me the best part of the working week is when I walk into my garden and fire an arrow from one of my longbows that is nearing completion. A really good specimen will land an arrow in the clump of trees 45 yards away.

If the bow is made from yew this will be a rather fraught experience. We bowyers refer to failures — we never have breaks. It is often said that yew will fail at the first firing or last a lifetime.

From a dull piece of wood a good bowyer can produce a relatively good bow. But it is possible to produce a bad bow from an excellent piece of wood. The skill of the bowyer is to find the best timber and then produce the best possible bow from it. If it was a case of finding yew all the time I think I'd be a nervous wreck by now. A good English yew bow will take me over a week to make, and the timber it is made from will have had to be seasoned for at least five years. Even then there is more chance that it will fail at the first attempt than with a cheaper, laminated bow.

I prefer to use wood from the bole — the trunk — because that is the best way of producing staves of the right length and with the correct sap/heartwood proportions to ensure the bow is both strong and springy. If the bole is not clean of branches the timber is likely to contain pin holes, knots, sap rot, heart shake, cracks and splits. A piece of English yew that looks promising on the outside ends up as a pile of rubbish once I have cut into it and left some of the timber.

When I hear that a local yew tree is to be felled I rush out to see it. My mouth waters if it is dead straight like a telegraph pole; but I know from bitter experience that basically all English yew is a lottery. The best yew comes from the USA and Canada, where it grows at a higher altitude, which seems to make all the difference to quality.

I prefer to use a laminated bow, as they are more reliable. My laminated bows are made from a mixture of South American boxwood and hickory, for large archery specialists in this country, Germany, Holland and Sweden, as well as for the film industry.

Most days I can be found in my workshop at home. I try to vary the day as I find it hard to perform one function all day. However on Fridays I like to saw the basic staves of the next week's batch and to do most of the gluing of the two parts that make up the basic bow.

The least pleasant task is making the horn folds — the traditional hook arrangement at the ends of the bow to which the string is attached. Grinding up animal horn, which I buy in from abattoirs, is a nasty, smelly business.

Finishing is also rather laborious — I use a great deal of steel wool and fine abrasive paper before either French polishing or varnishing. The result is hopefully a commendable piece of craftsmanship.

If I were to go for the highest performance bow I could find I would choose an Olympic standard carbon fibre model designed by computer and made in the USA or Japan. But using a bow like that is shooting, not archery.

Steve Ralphs was talking to Clive Fewins

## A little local trouble

The sheep farmers of Wales, according to this week's *Country Life*, are far from happy about their English counterparts intruding into the Principality. It's not their braying accents and city ways. It's not even their coarse Anglo-Saxon manners. No, what really gets them is that the English have begun to call themselves "flockmasters" rather than shepherds. "Flockmaster?", one of Mid Glamorgan's home-grown farmers is quoted as saying. "It sounds like something out of *Star Wars*."

Hail to Thee, blithe Spirit! Bird thou never wert... So begins Shelley's "To a Skylark". Sadly, were the poet writing in 1996 he might have continued: "Nor never more shall be." Apparently, Britain's Skylark population has gone into freefall over the past 20 years, dropping at a rate of 335 birds a day, something the RSPB this week set up a campaign to stop. The main culprits seem to be pesticides, which have destroyed the caterpillars and other bugs that skylark chicks need. Herbicides have cut down the amount of seeds from weeds that the adult birds need. Even fields that have been "set aside", as part of crop rotation

schemes, tend to be sprayed before the young birds can fledge.

"If set-aside land could be left alone during May and June, the skylarks could bring off two broods a year," Chris Mead of the British Trust for Ornithology said. "But the present system has been set up to increase agriculture production rather than help the birds." He was keen to add, however, that "it is not the fault of the farmers — they are under economic pressure." Adieu to thee...

Finally, despite all the column inches devoted to this week's Mad Human Disease revelations, one question remains: if the Government does decide to have the nation's entire cattle herd put down, what will happen to Britain's most famous bovine, Ellie May, from *The Archers*?

Ellie's life has not exactly been a bed of roses recently. Only the other month listeners heard how terribly lonely she had become, stuck in field on her own. But surely they can't let her go to the knacker's yard in Borehamston. Let's just say, says Vanessa Whitburn, the programme's editor, "we are looking at the whole BSE situation on a daily basis."

## The madness of March hares

Any day now, with luck, you may see mad March hares performing their rituals in the middle of a field. When the mating urge comes over them, they caper and cavort as if the ground were red hot, and sometimes they sit upright to box with their forefeet. Oddly enough, the ones that go in for such fisticuffs are not aggressive males, fancying themselves miniature Tysons, but females giving over-enthusiastic suitors the brush-off.

Nowhere in England is there a better chance of seeing hares than on the Game Conservancy Council's experimental farm at Loddington in Leicestershire. At a time when many surveys are reporting a decline in hare numbers, the population at Loddington has grown at an astonishing rate.

When the Game Conservancy took over in 1991, a count revealed only seven hares on 600-odd acres. With the introduction of efficient predator control, and a greater diversity of farm crops,

numbers built up rapidly to nearly 100 in 1994 — a total which Game Conservancy scientists considered remarkable. Imagine their astonishment when a census in 1995 showed 195 hares present.

There is no doubt about the causes of this spectacular revival. One is the fact that in spring and early summer the resident gamekeeper, Malcolm Brockless, clears his ground of predators. Whereas on other estates most leverets are killed by foxes and stoats, the absence of natural enemies at Loddington enables a high proportion to survive.

The second favourable factor is the agricultural regime. Experiment has shown that hares prefer to feed on, and live in, vegetation no more than eight or 10 inches tall. On most arable farms, with large fields of wheat or barley, the crops soon grow above that height, leaving them with nothing to eat.

At Loddington the farming is planned so that a greater range of crops and cover is



DUFF HART-DAVIS

available all year round. Some corn is sown in winter, some in the spring, as well as linseed and beans: there are also numerous set-aside strips, planted with mixtures of grass, rape, and kale. The result is a patchwork, as agreeable to the human eye as it is to hares and game-birds.

Game Conservancy researchers readily admit that the tremendous resurgence has taken them by surprise. They do not yet know what level of population the farm will safely sustain, and they fear that with so many hares on the ground there may be an outbreak of disease such as coccidiosis, a virulent form

of diarrhoea, or pseudotuberculosis, a bacterial infection which can quickly kill mature animals in spring.

As a precaution, last year they shot 45 hares and sent 18 alive to the Ministry of Defence gunnery ranges at Castlemartin, in Pembrokeshire, where the Commandant, Lt Col Michael Portman, is making a bold attempt to re-colonise 6,000 acres of grassland.

A keen beagler, Colonel Portman saw from old records that hares once flourished in Pembrokeshire: the game-books of the Cawdor Estate, which used to own some of the land, show that in the 1880s it was not unusual to shoot 800 a year. When he arrived at Castlemartin in 1991 there was not a single hare to be seen, but the ranges were full of other wild life, including buzzards, barn owls and choughs (similar to jackdaws).

Being untouched by chemicals, and rarely visited by humans, the grassland seemed ideal for hares. Colonel Port-

man therefore set about importing some, not only from Loddington, but also from other areas. A batch from the ammunition depot at Kineton, in Warwickshire, arrived "with WD arrows on their bottoms". Meanwhile, he has done all he can to make the environment more attractive, putting in root crops, planting new woodland, and calling local foxes.

It is too early to say whether his enterprise will succeed. One snag is that in winter the ranges are grazed down to the texture of a golf course by sheep brought off the Prescelly mountains, so that food and cover diminish. Meanwhile, at Loddington, the Game Conservancy's neighbours have accused them of luring all the hares in Leicestershire on to their land. The opposite is manifestly true: that surplus animals are moving out into neighbouring territories — a fact which will no doubt be confirmed when radio-tracking experiments start this autumn.

Same Ca

Make a really a fast

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When you're bu  
Mercedes, read

By James Ruppert



# Same car, different label

A Mazda is really a Fiesta, a Proton is a Mitsubishi. What's happened to brand values? By Gavin Green

The other day I discovered that my favourite designer tie is now available in a well-known high street store, wearing that well-known high street store's label. I'll now probably run into endless other guys wearing exactly the same piece of silk around their necks. Well, things could be worse, I thought. When I was told that their ties will have cost them half what I paid, I confess to being more peeved than surprised. We all know that designer labels have bigger mark-ups than high street store's own-brands. The greater exclusivity and "brand value" kids use to believe that such extravagance is worthwhile. Nonetheless there still seems to me something dishonest about two goods with different labels actually being one and the same. My BMW of ties is now re-badged as a Ford.

There are a few marketing tricks unknown to the car industry, of course. Any business so adept at turning tin boxes into sex symbols (as the motor industry has done over the years and is now doing with renewed vigour in its advertising), cannot be regarded as anything other than shrewd. No surprise then that, when it comes to the tie-type trick, the car industry has been there before.

We British have been particularly exposed to it. BL's many different cars in the Sixties were invariably just a small pool of models wearing different disguises. Rileys were just Morris which were just Austins. Just as, until recently, Rovers were just Hondas with more wood inside and a smarter grille.

But the same car/different label trick is now reaching almost epidemic proportions. And, just as with me and my tie, I suspect that the poor punter, who pays great heed to brand values, is being misled.

The most recent example is the new Mazda 121. The old 121 was an oddball little thing, made in Japan. Not many were sold in Britain but those who took the plunge, I'm told, were mostly very pleased. They no doubt valued the 121's made-in-Japan honesty and reliability, and its ease of operation. Mazda ownership promises (and usually delivers) a hassle-free relationship between company and customer.

No doubt those 121 owners, when it comes to the trade in, will first think of the new 121. They'll visit their Mazda dealer and be assured of the many virtues of the new model (not disingenuously either, for it's a good car). They'll probably sign on the bottom line. I wonder how many Mazda salesmen will voluntarily admit that, in fact, they're buying a Ford? Designed by Ford,

developed by Ford, and built by Ford (in Dagenham). The new 121, you see, is nothing more or less than a Ford Fiesta with different badges and minor changes. It's a clever move, by Mazda, to circumvent import restrictions on Japanese-made cars: being made in Britain, the new 121 is outside the quota. Ford, too, benefits: in effect, it's now making more Fiestas.

Ford is rather good at playing the this game. Its Ford Maverick 4x4 is a re-badged Nissan Terrano. The Ford Probe is a Mazda MX-6 coupe. The Ford Galaxy Multi-Purpose Vehicle (MPV) is the same as a Volkswagen Sharan, and the upcoming Seat Alhambra. That it is the best MPV is little consolation. At least when you buy a Renault Espace, you know that no non-Espace driver has one.

There are myriad other examples. The latest Rover 400 ("the best long distance ride on earth") is a Honda Civic 5-door. The Citroën Saxo, unveiled with much pomp and ceremony at the recent Geneva Show, is just a Peugeot 106 in drag. The Vauxhall Monterey 4x4 is an old Isuzu Trooper (not that it matters too much: nobody buys either). The new Citroën Synergie MPV is the same as a Peugeot 806 or a Fiat Ulysse. The heavily promoted new Daewoo, whose catchy ads are helping rack up impressive sales, are merely old Vauxhalls. Malaysian Protons are just old Mitsubishis.

Does any of this matter? Does the punter really care, as long as he gets a decent, reliable car? On the face of it: yes it does.

If you buy a Galaxy MPV, you've probably made a conscious decision to buy a Ford. Then you find out that your neighbour has just bought a Volkswagen Sharan and you're dismissive ("dour, stodgy Volkswagens. Look at the Beetle: what a joke! And besides they're German").

Then somebody tells you it's the same car. The only difference is that a little man in Portugal, where they're made, puts VW badges on some and Ford badges on the others. If all this doesn't matter, then brand values – a Holy Grail of marketing, a basic tenet of our capitalistic system – must be complete and utter baloney.

On second thoughts, brand values are often complete and utter baloney, determined either by history (which Henry Ford admitted was bunk) or by clever advertising. They often do not reflect the quality of the product. A Ford is just a car, just as a VW is a car, and just as a Daewoo is an old car.

Oh well, at least I know where to go shopping for ties next time.



Spot the difference: the new Mazda 121 (top) is nothing more and nothing less than a Ford Fiesta (above) with another badge and a few minor changes

## road test

### Jeep Grand Cherokee



Land Rover should worry. Britain's 4x4 maker thought it had broken free from the pack of Japanese off-roaders, by pitching its new Range Rover further up-market than any off-roader had ever ventured. Then, along comes the Jeep Grand Cherokee from the USA. No funny Japanese name, no bull-bars, just a smart new car from the only off-roader maker that can compete with Land Rover.

Jeep's existing Cherokee has already proved a big hit with those who would otherwise look to a Land Rover Discovery or something Japanese. The Grand is a bigger, smoother, more modern and more expensive version of the Cherokee idea, but at £28,995 it's still more than £4,000 cheaper than the cheapest Range Rover. It is not quite as new as it seems, having been launched in 1992, but is only now available with right-hand drive.

Automatic transmission comes as standard (the forthcoming turbodiesel version will be a manual), and for the most part you just select Drive and let the Jeep get on with it. I'd prefer it if the transmission didn't change up so soon during normal driving – the engine feels as though it is labouring – but the upshot is that engine noise seldom intrudes.

A viscous coupling in the transmission means that the Grand Cherokee behaves as a rear-wheel-drive car most of the time, with power being diverted to the front wheels automatically as the rears lose their grip. It makes for easy, fail-safe handling, backed up by an absorbent ride over bumps, and smooth (if imprecise) steering.

Why favour a Grand Cherokee over a Range Rover? The Jeep gives a similar blend of attributes, and rather more stylish looks, for less money. There's also the possible kudos of knowing that European-market Grands are built at the Steyr-Daimler-Puch factory in Austria, alongside the indestructible Mercedes-Benz G-wagen.

So what's the snag? Plastic wood on the dashboard, exposed for its true self by having "Jeep" and "SRS" (indicating an airbag) moulded into it. Like I said, it's cheaper than a Range Rover. Butz well worth the saving, plastic wood or not.

John Simister

## Specifications

Jeep Grand Cherokee 4.0 Limited, £28,995. Engine, 3960cc, six cylinders, 174bhp at 4600rpm. Four-speed automatic gearbox, four-wheel drive. Top speed 112mph, 0-60 in 9.9 seconds. Fuel consumption 18-23mpg.

## Rivals

Isuzu Trooper 3.2 V6 Citation LWB, £24,799. Land Rover Discovery 3.9 V8 ES, £28,900. Mitsubishi Shogun 3.5 V6 SE 5-door, £36,079. Range Rover 4.0 V8, £33,350. Toyota Landcruiser VX 4.5, £39,549.

# When you're buying a second-hand Mercedes, read the service book

By James Ruppert

Image. In the used-car business a good image makes life a lot easier. And in the case of Mercedes, it makes the German car a sensible and safe, if expensive used buy. For a car that in its native land leads a double life as the nation's favourite taxi, you might think that image would be hard to come by. But not a bit of it. All the qualities that are required to keep a Hackney carriage on the road – reliability, comfort and solidity – are standard features on the Mercedes, especially the medium-sized models like the W123 and its successor, the E class. Not opulent like the huge S class, or remotely sporty like the SLs, these models won't ever let you down. With the arrival of the new E class, there has never been a better time to consider one of these classy saloons.

The W123, also referred to as the 200 series, lasted 10 years, staying in production from 1976 to 1986, although used examples are set to be with us well into the next century. Build quality on these cars was nothing short of remarkable. Everything about them is heavy, from the minimum 3000 pound kerb weight to the Fort Knox doors – and, it has to be said, the rock hard seats.

Firmness is part of the Mercedes interior experience. One flick of the precise switchgear proves that the firmest thing on board is the driver. Not surprisingly there is a sixth digit on the mileometer to cope with the inevitable multi-thousand mileage. So beware owners who lie about the true mileage, or the car's previous life as a private hire taxi.

When it comes to choosing a model, the 200 is slow, the 230E pleasant and the six-cylinder 280E the best.



Sophisticated middleweight, the W123

Diesels are deservedly popular, but are painfully slow. TE estate models are the most up-market of load luggers and easily eclipse the common Volvo. The W124, more commonly called the E class, carried on from where it's predecessor left off, as a relaxed, sophisticated and prestigious package. It was a big improvement, with more modern styling, lighter bodies and better performance. The range steadily grew to include more engine options. ABS braking was prepared to spend money on servicing and parts. Lack of attention is the Mercedes' only enemy and then things will start to go expensively wrong. Always buy an automatic, but don't pick an unwise beige, dull or watery colour scheme which looks awful and can knock hundreds off the resale value. Sunroof and alloy wheels also make selling a Merc on even easier. So if the W123/4 you like looks pristine, drives quietly and has a history then there is nothing to worry about, in theory.

recently been retired from the mini cab circuit. Looking for E-class cars that I could believe in. I visited Western Mercedes Benz in Edinburgh. They had a 300E for £11,495 with the ideal specifications of an automatic gearbox and alloy wheels. It was a two-owner example with full service history, and mileage a careful 75,000. Down south, Dick Lovett had another 1988 E Class, 230 TE estate. Seven seats, automatic and air conditioning, almost perfect, for a reasonable £12,995. At Brunswick in Croydon £32,995 could get last year's E320 with all mod cons and a tiny 9,000 mileage.

For cost-effective Mercedes shopping you have to consider private sellers or specialists. At Kenton in north London there was a good selection of E-class cars. Their diesel estates started at £10,395 for a 1987 model and rose to £15,995 for a 1990 300E 24-valve with leather and service history. There was even a 1983 280SE at £4,995.

For something more unusual, Stadium Cars in Glasgow had a tarted up, F registered 300E at a mere £9,995. The good news was a full Mercedes service history, but not everyone would appreciate its body kit, even if it is a factory approved AMG add-on. An E class, or in fact any Mercedes, will always look better without any adornment. Right car, nice price, wrong image.

In practice, I stumbled across perhaps the most remarkable testament to the Mercedes marque when I visited a friend and his recently acquired W123. Parked in a field for a year, it had a patchy history and poor prospects. My friend bought it for £250 and towed it away. After a minor service, a new battery and a steam clean, it runs and drives like a two-year-old despite the 120,000 miles. Maybe he was lucky, but there are plenty of similar cars advertised at around £1,500 to £2,000 in quite remarkable condition. The most you will pay is £5,000 for a 1986 TE estate unless the genuine mileage is spectacularly low. The trick is avoiding the ones that have

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## money

## Investments with Eastern promise

Clifford German looks at some funds with a yen for Japanese markets

It is inevitable that Japan will return to economic growth and Japanese shares will eventually return to favour. It is a basic assumption of most fund managers. While New York and London are close to all-time highs, and the Tokyo market has rallied by about 25 per cent since it bottomed out last summer, Japan is barely 50 per cent of its all-time high, says Ed Mernor, of Atlantis Fund Management, the independently-owned, Guernsey-based managers.

The only question is when, and there have been several false dawns already. But no fewer than three funds are raising money this month. For the first time in years a rebound in investment by Japanese companies is coinciding with a further round of public sector spending on the infrastructure. The current exchange rate has made Japanese companies competitive and profitable at home and abroad, company earnings are set to double over the next two years, and there is scope for increased consumer spending, according to Gartmore Investment Trust Management's managing director, Michael Wrobel.

After keeping a low profile on Japan for five years, Gartmore is launching its Select Japanese Investment Trust to parallel its unit trust. It hopes to raise up to £75m at 100p a share with one free warrant for every five shares. The minimum subscription is £1,000 and the initial expenses are capped at 4.5 per cent with an annual charge of 1 per cent.

It will invest in 60 to 70 companies with the initial emphasis on smaller and

medium-sized companies in the domestic manufacturing, electronics and real estate sectors. Mr Wrobel is bullish about demand for personal computers and mobile phones where take-up is well below US levels.

Atlantis is hoping to raise \$150m through an approved investment trust to invest in Japan for long-term capital growth, favouring healthcare, leisure and media sectors and some technology companies. It will avoid banks and utilities. The minimum subscription is £1,500, investors will receive one free warrant for every five shares. The initial charge is likely to be around 4 per cent and the management charge 1.5 per cent a year.

Although Japan funds are not fully eligible as PEP investments, up to £1,500 can be held as part of a £6,000 general PEP. Investors can ask their PEP manager to buy shares for their PEP or can transfer shares they buy in the public offer to their PEP within 42 days of the allotment.

Meanwhile, General Accident Life has launched a guaranteed growth bond to invest in the Tokyo market over the 66 months to November 2001. Investors will receive the growth in the Nikkei 300 index on 95 per cent of their investment and a guaranteed return of 125 per cent on the full amount subscribed.

Charges are included in the terms of the offer and the minimum investment is £2,500. There is an early investment bonus for applications received before 20 May.

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Hinckley & Rugby	0800 774499	0.11 for 9 mths	70	—	Free val, 3 yrs unemployment ins
Derbyshire BS	01332 841000	3.64 for 2 years	75	0.125	Free val, fee refund, £250 remortgages
Halifax BS	0800 101110	4.45 to 30/4/99	90	—	Free valuation
Alliance & Leicester	01273 775454	1.65 to 1/4/97	95	0.5%	Refund val. Free ASU
NatWest Home Lns	0800 400999	4.19 to 31/3/98	95	0.145	£50 rebate A
Nationwide BS	01793 513513	7.39 for 5 years	95	0.295	£50 rebate + val fee
<b>First time buyers variable rates</b>					
Principality BS	01222 344188	1.00 to 1/5/97	90	—	To 31/5/01: discount reclaim
Greenwich BS	0181 858 8212	3.75 for 2 years	95	—	1st 5 yrs: discount reclaim
Abbey National	0800 555100	5.99 to 31/5/01	95	—	To 31/5/01: indiv determined
<b>PERSONAL LOANS</b>					
<b>Unsecured</b>					
Direct Line	0141 248 9966	14.90%	—	—	With insurance
Midland Bank	0800 180180	14.90	—	—	Without insurance
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	16.20	—	—	£102.59
<b>Secured (second charge)</b>					
Term	—	—	—	—	£102.49
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	8.09	Neg	£3K - £15K	£103.33
Royal B of Scotland Via branch	—	9.00	70%	£2.5K - £100K	—
First Direct	0800 242424	9.50	80%	£3K to neg	—
<b>OVERDRAFTS</b>					
Telephone	Account	Authorised	Unauthorised	APR	Annual
Woolwich BS	0800 400900	Current	0.76	9.5	2.18
Alliance & Leicester	0500 959595	Alliance	0.76	9.5	2.20
Abbey National	0500 200500	Current	0.79	9.9	2.18
<b>CREDIT CARDS</b>					
Telephone	Card income	Min. pm	Rate %	APR	Annual
Standard	—	—	—	—	—
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.92	11.50
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	1.00	14.00
RBS Advanta	0800 077770	Visa	—	1.22	15.60
<b>Gold cards</b>					
Co-operative Bank	0345 212212	Visa	£20,000	0.50	10.50
Royal B of Scotland	01702 362890	Visa	£20,000	1.05N	14.50N
NatWest Bank	0800 200400	Visa	£20,000	1.14	15.90
<b>STORE CARDS</b>					
Telephone	Payment by direct debit	% pm	APR	Annual	Int. free period
John Lewis	in store	—	—	—	0 days
Marks and Spencer	01244 681681	1.67A	24.80	1.97	18.00
Sears	in store	1.94	25.90	2.20	26.30

APR: Annualised percentage rate.  
A: If company's holdings and contents insurance taken.  
E: Available to comprehensive motor insurance policyholders aged over 22 years.  
All rates subject to change without notice. MONEYFACTS 01682 500677. 21 March 1996

## Best savings rates

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>FIXED RATE SAVINGS</b>					
Portman BS	01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.80 Year
Shipton BS	01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£2,500	5.10 Year
Shipton BS	01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£15,000	5.25 Year
Shipton BS	01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£30,000	6.00 Year
<b>FIXED RATE SAVINGS - FURTHER RATES</b>					
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	First Class Access	Postal	£1,000	5.00 Year
Buckinghamshire BS	01494 873064	Chiltern Gold	Postal	£10,000	5.65 6 Months
First National BS	0800 558844	Demand Deposit	Postal	£10,000	5.70 Year
Direct Line	0181 667 1121	Instant Savings	Telephone	£25,000	6.00 Year
<b>FIXED RATE SAVINGS - FURTHER RATES</b>					
Manchester BS	0161 834 9465	45 Day	45 day	£25,000	6.55 Year
Bradford & Bingley BS	0345 248248	Direct 90	90 day P	£15,000	6.60 Year
Bradford & Bingley BS	0345 248248	Direct 90	90 day P	£30,000	7.00 Year
Cheslea BS	0800 272505	120 Account	120 day	£5,000	6.50 Year
<b>FIXED RATE SAVINGS - FURTHER RATES</b>					
Co-operative Bank	0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	5.00 Month
Manchester BS	0161 834 9465	45 Day	45 day	£25,000	6.36 Month
Bradford & Bingley BS	0345 248248	Direct 90	90 day P	£15,000	6.60 Month
Bradford & Bingley BS	0345 248248	Direct 90	90 day P	£30,000	7.00 Month
<b>FIXED RATE SAVINGS - FURTHER RATES</b>					
Cheslea BS	0800 272505	Fixed Rate Bond	1/5/98	£10,000	6.75F Year
Shrop & Swindon BS	0345 252423	Fixed Rate Bond	2/4/89	£2,000	7.05F Year
Bristol & West BS	0117 979 2222	Fixed for Three	3 Year	£5,000	7.05F Year
Bristol & West BS	0117 979 2222	Fixed for Three	3 Year	£25,000	7.10F Year
<b>CREDIT ACCOUNTS</b>					
Meinwort Benson	01202 502404	HICA	Instant	£2,500	5.25 Month
Alliance & Leicester	0115 271 7272	Alliance	Instant	£5,000	5.00 Month
Cheslea BS	0800 272505	Classic Postal	Instant	£10,000	5.00 Year
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	Higher Rate Deposit	Instant	£10,000	5.50 3 Months
<b>GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS</b>					
AIG	0181 680 7172	1 year	£10,000	4.85FN Year	—
AIG	0181 680 7172	2 year	£10,000	5.55FN Year	—
Premium Life	0800 414111	3 year	£10,000	5.75FN Year	—
Premium Life	0800 414111	4 year	£10,000	6.15FN Year	—
Pinnacle Insurance	0181 207 9007	5 year	£3,000	6.75FN Year	—
<b>OFFSHORE BONDS</b>					
Northern Rock, Guern	01481 714600	Offshore Instant	Instant	£10,000	6.45 Year
Northern Rock, Guern	01481 714600	Offshore Instant	Instant	£25,000	6.70 Year
Northern Rock, Guern	01481 714600	Offshore Instant	Instant	£50,000	6.90 Year
8th Marches, Guern	01481 700680	Fixed Account	31.1.99	£5,000	7.25F Year
<b>NATIONAL SAVINGS</b>					
Investment Account	—	1 month	£20	5.00 Year	—
Income Bond	—	3 month	£2,000	5.75 Year	—
Capital Bond	—	5 year	£100	6.65 F Maturity	—
First Option Bond	—	12 month	£1,000	6.25 F Year	—
Pensioner's Guaranteed Income Bond	—	5 year	£500	7.00 F Month	—
NS Certificates (tax-free)	—	5 year	£100	5.35 F Maturity	—
43rd Issue	—	5 year	£100	2.50 + rpi Maturity	—
9th Index Linked	—	5 year	£100	2.50 + rpi Maturity	—
Children's Bond	—	5 year	£25	6.75 F Maturity	—

P: post only  
N: net rate  
All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice. MONEYFACTS 01682 500677. 21 March 1996

## FEAR OF FINANCE

Clifford German

Short-term interest rates are still edging lower, but longer rates are starting to edge up. Interest rates offered on selected guaranteed income bonds have risen this week, according to brokers Baronworth and annuity rates, which are driven by long-term interest rates, have increased again for the ninth week in a row, according to the Annuity Bureau.

This is welcome news to savers, but it has implications for borrowers. If you have been thinking of taking the plunge and fixing

your mortgage costs for the next five years, it is make your mind up time. In the last fortnight, three of the best five-year fixed rates have been withdrawn, and the cheapest current offer still available, according to brokers John Charcol, is Coventry Building Society's 6.79 per cent plus a 3 per cent fee.

There is no redemption penalty, but whichever way you slice it that works out at well over 7 per cent over the five-year term.

The fact is five-year mortgage money has been looking unusu-

tainably cheap for some time, since the cost of funds for two years and more ahead started anticipating the near certainty of a Labour government in power by then.

But the mortgage war is not going to fizzle out. The battlefront has simply shifted to other fronts. Norwich & Peterborough in fact has almost simultaneously withdrawn its five-year fixed rate of 7.24 per cent and cut its fixed rate to 7.24 per cent and cut its fixed rate to 3.59 per cent.

Alliance & Leicester has come up with a new low one-year fixed rate of 1.65 per cent with a six month penalty for paying back within five years.

Legal & General has returned to the fray by cutting the cost of its two main mortgage products, Guaranteed Gold and Flexible Reserve, from 6.95 per cent to 6.39 per cent.

Both are variable rates, available through financial advisers, through Legal & General's own sales forces and over the phone

from its direct sales department. Flexible Reserve allows borrowers to accelerate repayments at any time, and equally important, to borrow back the additional payments at any time. There are no hidden fees and no penalties for early redemption.

Other short-term borrowing rates are also continuing to fall. The TSB this week has cut its personal loan rates by 2 per cent to 12.9 per cent APR on loans over £7,500 and by 1 per cent to 15.9 per cent on loans over £5,000.

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Permanent address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
If the bond is to be held jointly with one other person complete section 4.
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All forenames \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_
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# Future options

That don't break the bank. David Porter advises

The turmoil in global stock markets over the past two weeks understandably makes investors think about how to lock in gains without necessarily dumping shares or triggering a liability to capital gains tax.

Until then the London stock market had been within spitting distance of its all-time high. The last interest rate cut should have stabilised London shares for a bit longer. But that was completely overshadowed by plunging markets on Wall Street. London markets followed the US stock market fall causing investors to revise views on where they think shares will head now. A general election is looming – another dampening factor.

Some may conclude that the negatives outweigh the positives – that shares are due for another dive. The bulls have had a good run. Over the past 12 months investors have seen the values of share portfolios soar. Over that time the FT-SE 100 index, comprising shares in Britain's largest companies, has risen almost 20 per cent.

Can investors lock in some profit so that if the bears gain the upper hand they do not lose all of their hard-earned gains? They could sell some shares. That takes nerve as they will lose out if the bullish noises from some quarters turn out to be right. As well as ruling out any further capital gain they would also lose dividend income generated from the shares. Selling shares could also increase an investor's tax burden. Gains up to £6,000 in this tax year are exempt from capital gains tax. But if an investor is already close to breaching that limit before the end of the tax year on 5 April then any sales will probably incur extra tax.

Traded options offer one possible answer to investors' prayers. Tony Hawes, manager of equity products

at the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) thinks they should feature in most investors' financial planning toolkits. "Buying a 'put' option guarantees a minimum sale price on 68 of the most actively traded shares," he says.

First investors should look to see whether any of their shares feature in the 68 on which options can be bought and sold. To do this they can either ring their stockbroker or examine the statistics pages of the *Financial Times* at the local library. Principally, the 68 are the UK's largest quoted companies and range from supermarket group Asda to pharmaceuticals giant Zeneca.

Traded options are a bit complicated at first glance. That is why Liffe runs training courses up and down the country for investors. But for each of the 68 most traded shares there are two types of contract on offer: a "call option" giving the buyer a right to buy shares at a set price on a fixed future date; or a "put option" giving the buyer a right to sell shares at a specified price on a fixed date in the future.

A contract would cover "put" and "call" options on lots of 1,000 in the 68. Like the shares they shadow the price of a "put" or a "call" change daily. So now for some recent examples of how "put" options could be put to work. Take Barclays Bank shares, currently trading a little over 720p. They have risen strongly from a low of 550p over the past year. This could prompt some investors to take out a "put" option to guarantee a minimum sale price. Currently buying a put option at 700p (that expires mid-June) would cost 14p for each Barclays share, effectively locking the sale price at 686p (700p less the cost of option, 14p). Locking in a sale price at 750p would cost 39p a share so the rock bottom price that the investor can

expect per Barclays share is 711p, although don't forget about the other costs involved (see below). In the case of a "put" option the contract becomes worthless if at expiry the exercise price is below that prevailing on the shares in the stock market.

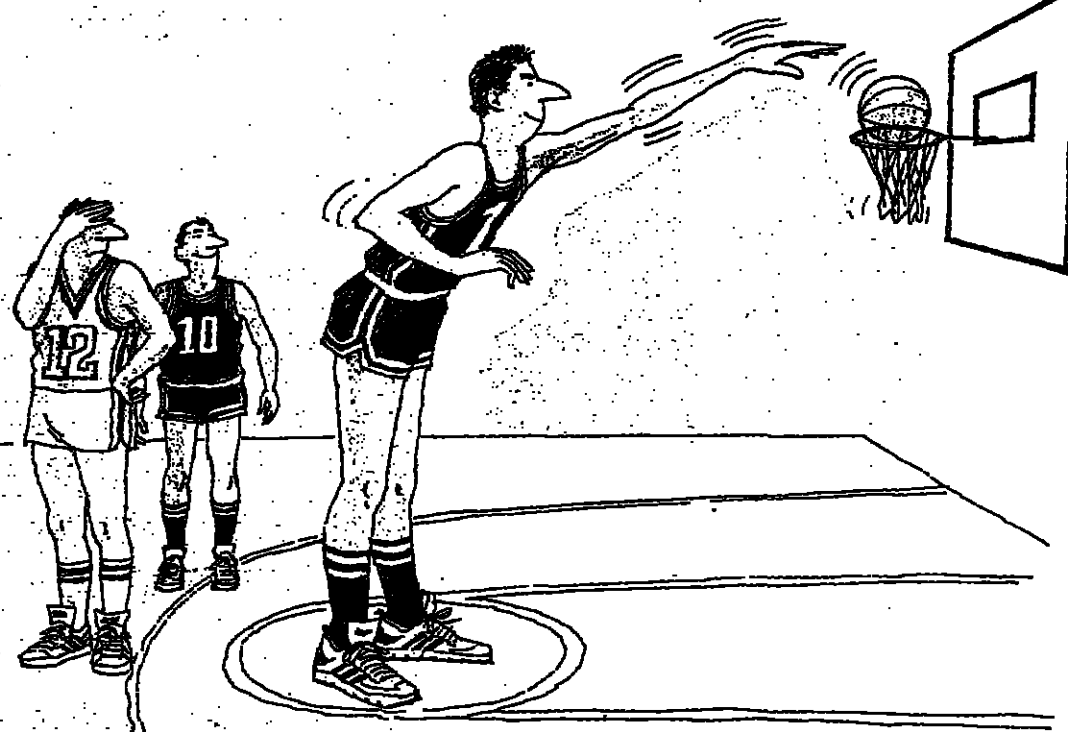
Take another good performing share over the past year – Zeneca. Shares in this drugs giant were changing hands around 1,340p last Thursday. They have risen from a low of 840p in the past year. Locking in at 1,300p would cost 16p per share so the minimum guaranteed price that investors can expect at the end of the term in mid-April is 1,284p per Zeneca share. The cost of a "put" contract over 1,000 shares would be £160 (1,000 shares at the option price 16p) but there would be stockbrokers' commission (probably a minimum £20 to £25). Stockbrokers normally charge a nominal sum of £1 to £2 on top for arranging each option contract.

At any stage during the fixed term, right up to the day of expiry, the option can be sold, but investors would incur dealing costs. The other choice open to investors is to exercise the option to sell shares, although once again stockbroker dealing costs would be triggered.

The Liffe market is sometimes viewed as a gambler's paradise. But here it is providing a useful investor service that can prove to be highly relevant towards the end of a tax year – more so this year given the spectacular rise of the stock market. In effect it is providing what amounts to an insurance service for investors in these uncertain times.

For an explanatory booklet on the Liffe market and how options work telephone 0171-379 2486. Details are also available over the Internet. Liffe's web site address is <http://www.liffe.com>

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# Motor insurance myth hits the crash barrier

The demise of the knock-for-knock agreement has not dented insurers' profits as much as they feared. By Nigel Richardson

Much has been said and written over many years about the motor insurers' knock-for-knock agreement, much of it untrue, often by motorists who had little understanding of how it worked or how it applied to them. The one feature always common to any debate on the subject was the insistence by insurers that the agreement worked in the best interests of the majority of motorists in that it helped to keep their premiums low. Even I was persuaded this was the case and have been known to use the argument in its support. It is only now, following the withdrawal of the agreement, that insurers have discovered how untrue this argument had become.

The agreement worked reasonably well in the days of the old tariff companies, a tariff that required members to charge exactly the same premium. The tariff had the effect of producing similar client bases for participating insurers, especially the ratio of comprehensive to non-comprehensive policies. This was crucial for the success of the agreement as it relied on the belief that over a number of claims the insurers' liability aspect would be evened out, very much a case of swings and roundabouts.

Such an agreement between insurers would have gone unnoticed by clients had it not been for the no claims bonus. Insurers have always been careful to emphasise that it is a no claims bonus not a no blame bonus. Far too often insurers would delete the bonus if they had settled the claim under the agreement, whereas it should still have been allowed if their client was not to blame.

The maximum permitted bonus under the tariff system was at one stage only 10 per cent (and protected no claims bonuses had not even been thought of so

some clients, happy that the claim had been paid, did not argue. To others, however, it was like showing a red rag to a bull. It was not so much the extra premium that annoyed them as the damage to their pride. How dare an insurer imply their driving skills were suspect?

Those that did complain were generally told to establish they were not to blame. It was not, after all, in the interest of the insurer to establish liability as by doing so they could lose 10 per cent of the next premium. It is not surprising that motorists took such a dislike to the agreement despite being told it worked in their best interest.

Had the agreement been applied correctly as far as bonus was concerned their clients would never have known of its existence. Those who took the wise decision to insure through a broker generally fared better. Generally unknown to them their broker would have pressed the insurer into allowing the bonus where it was justified in doing so.

Certainly there was a period in my own career where one of my key tasks was to broke renewals where there

had been claims. Frequently I was successful in persuading reluctant insurers to allow the no claims bonus where the claim had been dealt with under the agreement. Merely a study of the circumstances of the incident and the nature of damage to the insured vehicle was generally sufficient to determine liability.

The tariff system itself and the knock-for-knock concept collapsed under the impact of competition from new insurers who refused to be party to any trade agreements. This provided them the freedom to target preferred classes of business, the result being that over a number of years insurers built differing profiles of business, in particular the ratio of comprehensive to non-comprehensive clients.

The main weakness of the old knock-for-knock became evident: it had led to comprehensive clients subsidising those who opted for reduced cover, while insurers with mainly comprehensive clients were in turn subsidising those who wrote mainly third party business.

To illustrate the problem take the incident where a motorist insured for third party is negligent in colliding with a motorist insured comprehensively. The third party insurer pays nothing to their client, the comprehensive insurer settles his client's claim and is unable to make a recovery from the negligent driver's insurer because of the agreement. Had the liability been the other way around the comprehensive insurer would have had to pay the cost of the damage to both vehicles. So the comprehensive insurer was always having to pay his own damage and in addition the damage to any third party vehicle where their policyholder was negligent. Meanwhile the third party insurer never paid any accidental damage except maybe under an uninsured loss claim.

Once a predominantly comprehensive insurer had finally taken the bold step of cancelling their knock-for-knock agreements they were often surprised to find that they were actually recovering the majority of the accidental damage payments they were making to their clients without any appreciable cost in doing so. Those insurers who favoured third party risks were obviously not so keen to end an agreement that had been highly profitable for them. They were now having to pay their policyholders' correct share of the overall claims costs.

The result has been a rating change that is now far fairer to the majority of motorists, those that purchase comprehensive cover. Under the agreement third party premiums were only about half of the equivalent comprehensive rate. Today that has risen to around 75 per cent. The change has been achieved as much by comprehensive premiums falling as by any increase in the third party rates.

Any other change? Well yes, surprise surprise, predominantly third party insurers are now looking for a more balanced account by attempting to attract more comprehensive clients and comprehensive insurers are more inclined to consider limited cover policies now that premiums for them have risen.

So are we seeing the beginning of a return to the days of the old tariff where large insurers all write similar portfolios of business? Perhaps that is wishful thinking in a market dominated by a lust for market share rather than any sound or logical underwriting practice. But at least the myth about the agreement acting in the best interest of the motorist has at last been laid to rest.

Nigel Richardson is motor schemes manager at the RAC

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Growth stocks may be potentially the most rewarding, but they also carry a higher risk of failure – and you have to spot the real growth stocks from the shooting stars, companies that fizzle strongly only to burn out quickly

There is no greater competition between investment practitioners than that between those who favour growth shares and those who engage in so-called "value" investing. The former say that the key to making money consistently is buying shares that are experiencing rapid growth in earnings. The latter say that a much better approach is to look for those that are selling at such a low price – relative to earnings, asset value or cash flow – that the only way they can go is up.

These two approaches stand at the twin ends of the investment spectrum. Most investors incline, by choice or by temperament, to one approach or to the other. Both like to call on important figures in the history of investment theory. Value investors, for example, pay allegiance to Ben Graham, an American academic turned investment manager.

Graham was a classical scholar who liked nothing better than reading the small print in balance sheets. He was the first man to turn stock market research into a reputable activity, and in a series of books and monographs laid down a series of guidelines for value-based investing which are still required reading for serious students. His book, *Security Analysis*, remains the standard textbook for professional analysts and fund managers.

Growth stock investors, by contrast, pay homage to a different pantheon of heroes. Perhaps the first to establish a lasting reputation for his methods was another American, T Rowe Price. His name still adorns a number of mutual funds in the United States. In more recent times, and in this country, Jim Slater is one well-known investor who has popularised his own version of growth stock theory.

Given the millions of words that have been expended by proponents of these two schools of investing to prove the superiority of their chosen methods, anyone who tries to summarise the differences in a few lines is liable to be accused of distortion and simplification. The divisions are not perhaps quite as deep as those between Euroceptics and Europhiles, but they are not far behind.

Crudely summarised, however, the kind of shares that get growth stock investors excited are small, fast growing companies whose earnings rise steadily over a period of years. By definition, they tend to have low dividend yields – growth stocks are too busy growing to have much time for dividends – and high price/earnings ratios. Most of their value is represented by future potential, rather than past achievement or current performance. Investors who can find



JONATHAN DAVIS  
INVESTMENTS

and jump aboard such a company while it is still on its growth trajectory can often make spectacular returns.

What excites a value investor, by contrast, are shares that, for whatever reason, are selling at what looks like a cheap price, when compared with their own recent performance or that of the rest of the stock market. A good stock for a value investor is one with a high yield and low price/earnings ratio. Best of all is a company that has plenty of assets but which is currently out of favour with the prevailing fashion in the stock market.

Those who have the courage to buy this kind of share at the height of its unpopularity can also make a lot of money. Which strategy is better? The arguments have raged for years. In practice, a lot depends on two things: Firstly, what sort of risks the investor is looking to take. Growth stocks may be potentially the most rewarding, but they also carry a higher risk of failure – and you also have to be able to

spot the real growth stocks from the shooting stars, companies that fizzle strongly, only to burn out equally quickly. Value investors by contrast tend to be much more risk-averse.

Secondly, what is happening to the market and the economy as a whole. The early stages of an upturn in the economic cycle tend to produce a raft of small companies whose products or services are much in demand, and whose earnings are therefore growing fast. The question is whether they can sustain that growth when the cycle turns down, or when the market itself moves from a bear to a bull phase.

The best time to find value stocks is when gloom in both the stock market and the economy is all around – as it was in the mid 1970s. Then you can buy blue chip companies on earnings or asset value multiples that are but a fraction of their historical average. In markets like today's, when optimism is high and interest rates have fallen sharply, that is less easy.

A research study in the United States now claims to have new and definitive insights into the timeless debate between value and growth investors. According to the Wall Street weekly magazine, *Barron's*, a fund manager called Jim O'Shaughnessy has gained exclusive access to the vast Standard & Poor's database of stock market performance in the 45 years since 1951. He has used it to test which stock-picking strategies have produced the best results over that period.

The full results will not be published until the summer, but these are some of his conclusions, as reported by *Barron's*. In general, they tend to support the view that value investing is the better bet over the long term, but with some notable exceptions. Bear in mind that the data refers exclusively to Wall Street, though the results in London would almost certainly be little different.

Popular stocks are a surefire way to lose money. If you had bought those shares with the highest prices relative to cash flow, sales or assets, you would have seriously underperformed the stock market as a whole in subsequent years.

Buying shares based solely on their price/earnings ratio is also a good way to underperform the market as a whole. Shares that have either unusually high or

unusually low p/e ratios provide no guarantee of exceptional performance: if anything, rather the opposite.

What does seem to work well is buying the shares that have done best in the previous year. Among big companies, those that were the worst performers in the previous year continue to underperform as a group. In general, says Mr O'Shaughnessy, all the best stock-picking strategies he found were based, in part at least, on finding shares which displayed strong relative strength (ie. they had done better than the market as a whole in the recent past).

The best results of all seem to come from combining value and growth criteria – for example, picking those shares with above average recent performance whose market value was also low relative to the company's sales. The main drawback: finding companies that meet these criteria is often hard to do.

The other drawback with such historical analyses is that – as it rightly says in the small print of all financial advertisements these days – past performance is no guide to future performance. What Mr O'Shaughnessy's research does underline, however, is that following fashion is one certain way to secure disappointment.

## Abstract nightmares

Michael Peters learned about the art market the hard way. By Corinne Simcock

Michael Peters, OBE, 55, is founder and managing partner of Identica, a "new wave" brand design, corporate identity, innovations and multimedia consultancy with clients including Unilever, NatWest, United Disasters, Mercury One-2-One, Finnair and Neslé.

After graduating from Yale with a Master of Fine Arts degree in 1964, he went on to set up Michael Peters and Partners, which became the largest design firm in the world and was floated in 1983. But he yearned for a smaller business again and in 1992 he formed Identica, which has since achieved a fee income of more than £3m and employs 35 people.

Years ago, when I was at art school in America, I studied under a very famous painter called Joseph Albers. He was an émigré from the Bauhaus, the most influential institute of architecture and design in Germany. This man had a very great influence on me.

It was Albers who introduced me to the Italian painter Mattia, and I became a great lover of his work too.

I always wanted to own some of their paintings, but as a student, of course, it was completely out of my reach. It wasn't until the Eighties that I was able to fulfil that particular ambition and acquire works of art by both of them.

By then, like many designers, I had become an avid collector. Over the years I had invested mainly in the work of British painters and craftsmen. It is a passion of mine to spot young artists and designers and give them some support.

But when an abstract by Mattia became available at auction, I simply couldn't resist it. He wasn't much in demand at the time as he was known to very few people, and I managed to buy it for £10,000.

I felt such a sense of achievement, owning something I had always admired as a

youngster. To have a Mattia in my hands felt like one of the greatest gifts in the world. It was like having a new baby. This painting made marvellous use of colour and form, and every day I looked at it I saw something different.

My golden rule has always been never to sell anything, because my collection is very important to me. Just as everybody knows what they were doing when Kennedy was shot, my collection represents to me the chronology of my life.

But the painting was about 7ft by 6ft, and it is fair to say that it took up rather a large amount of the wall. To do it justice required a lot of available space, and when I moved offices a year later there really was no place for it, so I decided with great regret that I should sell it.

To my surprise, when I auctioned it in 1989, I sold for £16,000. I was amazed, because I don't buy art to sell for the profit. However, it had turned out to be a terrific investment and I was extremely happy.

At least, I was happy until 1992 when a catalogue arrived through my door for a big art auction in New York. There, in colour, was my Mattia painting with a reserve price of \$200,000.

My first thought was "Shit". I was astonished, absolutely astonished.

I couldn't believe my own eyes, so in order to be certain I compared it with colour photographs which I take of all additions to my collection. Sure enough, it was the same painting.

Subsequently I learned that the picture had sold for \$285,000. By this time I was gobsmacked. It was hard to swallow that a painting could sell for that price when only three years earlier I had sold it for £16,000.

As you can imagine, I was mightily peeved. It was a very great error on my part. If only I had stuck to my guns and not sold something which formed part of my collection.



Art masterclass: A Mattia painting like this, sold for £16,000 in 1989, was worth \$285,000 by 1992

But where I really went wrong was in not being savvy to the market. Having decided to sell, I should have done some research, because – like fashion – painters go in and out of vogue.

Had I checked it out I would have discovered that in the early Nineties, Mattia had become a big discovery. After all, by that time he was dead.

Apart from feeling sick and fed up, it taught me a very great lesson. If you want to make the maximum return on your investment, make sure you research the market properly.

It's easy to spot trends if you watch what the big collectors are doing, but I just hadn't bothered to check it out. It was a mistake I hope I will never make again, and I have continued to invest in the arts ever since.

The first rule is to buy something that will sit happily on your wall. Personally I couldn't live with having something that was not to my taste simply because it was an investment.

Don't be put off by what others say about

it, and be committed to sponsoring the artist, if you can afford it, by having more than one painting.

On the whole I'm a hoarder, and I hope that one day my children will have a very nice collection to hang on their walls.

But buying a fine art collection is a very exciting hobby that can be translated – if you so desire – into a terrific return on your capital.

It is a great pleasure to own a beautiful painting which day by day is increasing in value, providing you don't mind the emotional upset of getting rid of a piece you like to turn it into money.

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## money

# Can pay, will pay, but on the right valuation, please

Council tax bills are due to rise next month, but will still be based on 1991 valuations, often well above current prices. Paul Gosling reports

**H**undreds of thousands of households in London and the South-east will be paying for their council tax bills will be paying too much – because the Government refuses to carry out a revaluation of homes. Council tax liability is based on April 1991 values – and since then house prices have fallen more dramatically in the South-east than in the North.

Not only would many properties now be in a lower band if the valuations were done again, but local authorities in the South-east would receive more government grant, reducing the overall funding burden on householders. While the Labour Party has criticised the current system, it too refuses to pledge itself to undertaking a revaluation or say what alternative to the council tax it would put in place in government.

Council tax levels will

rise next month by an average of 6 per cent in England. The highest bills will be paid by owners of homes in Liverpool valued at more than £320,000. Their tax bill will be £2,012.92. The largest increase will be in Wellingborough – where the tax is up by 58 per cent, to £499.50 for an average property – although this reflects the previously very low tax. Several authorities in Scotland and Wales are raising taxes by more than 20 per cent, to pay for the replacement of two-tier councils with new unitary authorities.

But council tax bills are distorted by use of 1991 property values. Figures from Halifax Building Society show that while average property prices in London have dropped by 15 per cent over the last five years, the figure is 9 per cent for the North, while in Scotland they have actually risen on average by 8 per cent. Within these large



The Mersey pound: Come next month's rises, Liverpool will be the site of the highest council tax bills

regions there are much larger variations, with prices falling in London's Docklands by 30 per cent, while increasing in Barnes by 40 per cent. Prices also rose quickly during Northern Ireland's ceasefire, but councils there are funded by the even older rates system, using 1975 prices.

Local authorities admit it is unfair that they have to bill people on the basis of out-of-date figures. Stephen Lord, finance assistant secretary at the Association of District Councils, says: "It is like basing income tax on what you earned five years ago."

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities has asked the Government to carry out a revaluation. "It is completely bonkers that the Government has no plans for a revaluation," argues Martin Pilgrim, finance under secretary at the AMA.

The Department of the Environment says a revaluation will not be carried out for the foreseeable future. The Labour Party argues that the council tax system is unfair, with insufficient bands to reflect variations in property prices. But a spokesman for Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, said his party was not committed to an early revaluation of properties if it won the general election.

A revaluation would lead to redistribution of government grant to local authorities, paying more to the South-east and less to the North – and this could well involve a shift of funds away

from Labour-supporting areas. Without a revaluation the anomalies are likely to grow worse. There were almost a million appeals against property valuations when the council tax was introduced three years ago, and all but 3,000 of these have now been decided.

But new appeals can only be lodged if a property has changed hands within the last six months, or where property values have been affected by what is called "a change in material circumstances" to the extent that a property would be placed in a different council tax band. The fall in the housing market since 1991 is not grounds for appeal.

Properties can be revalued upwards if an extension is built, or downwards if an existing extension is demolished. Adaptations for a person with disabilities could cause a property to be revalued in either direction.

A new road, supermarket, factory, housing estate or sewage works near a home are likely to be successful grounds for an appeal. So too might be a permanent change of flight-path from an airport. Subsidised, particularly caused by mining, is another accepted basis for appeal.

Where properties are upwardly revalued this only comes into effect when the home is next sold. Owners are not required to notify the valuation office of changes which increase a property's value, but if asked for details these must, by law, be provided.

Local valuation officers

have no obligation to consider appeals lodged now where there is a belated recognition of a past error rather than a change of circumstance.

In practice, however, they will do so, backdating them where the application is accepted. This is likely to lead to the local authority issuing a rebate, plus interest on the sum. There is a right of appeal, to a valuation tribunal, against a valuation officer's decision in the event of a change in circumstances, but not where a factor was previously ignored.

In one recent case in Boston, Lincolnshire, local surveyor Thomas Balderstone acted on behalf of a bungalow owner who had overlooked a clause in the deeds of the property which restricted its use to local farm labourers. The valuation officer has now revalued the property at two-thirds of full market value.

While many homeowners use surveyors, estate agents or solicitors to represent them in requesting a revaluation, this is not necessary. Indeed, many surveyors decline to take on the cases. Mike Cowley, a surveyor based in Nuneaton, Warwickshire, said: "My advice is for people to have a go themselves. If we were to charge them a reasonable fee it would not be worth it, as it would not save them any money."

Citizens' Advice Bureaux will assist people to prepare revaluation applications, and addresses of local valuation officers can be found in the telephone directory.

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# The Crest of a trading wave

In just over three months, a new share-settlement system will move into place on the stock market. Its impact will be revolutionary, and investors would be wise to be prepared. Fraser Gardiner investigates

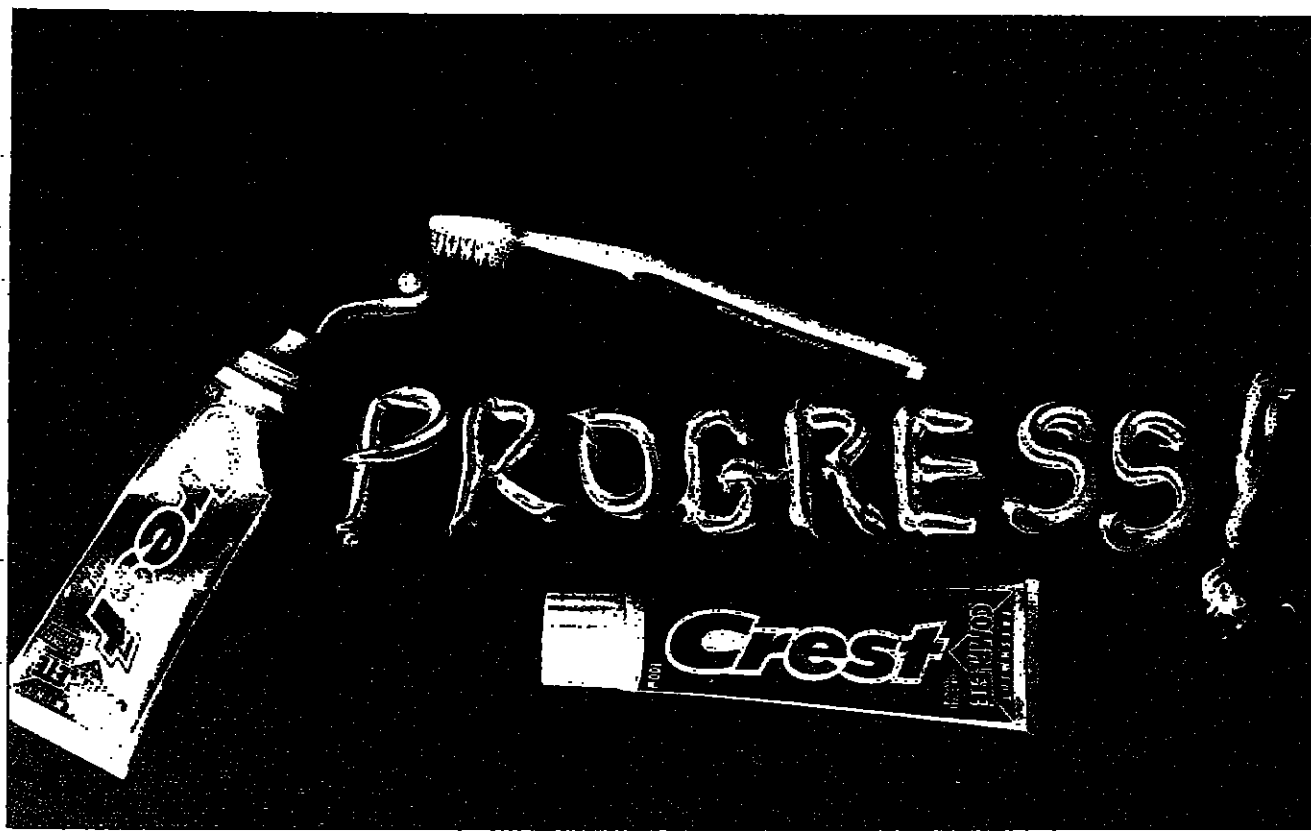
**M**ention Crest and most of us probably think of toothpaste. However, investors buying shares are set to hear a lot more about Crest, the new electronic system for settling payments for sales and purchases of shares.

Considerable changes in the share settlement system have been implemented since an electronic system called Taurus was abandoned in 1993. The old account-trading system, which divided the year into two or three-week-long "accounts" at the end of which the net balances owing were paid, has been abandoned. It allowed plenty of time for private investors and trustees to deliver stock certificates to the market and settle accounts. But share deals are now completed on a rolling-settlement basis, allowing five business days to settle an account. Once Crest is established, the settlement period is likely to be further reduced to three days. This will make it even more difficult for investors dealing on an advisory basis who currently hold shares in their own names, and in particular for those not using a nominee service that provides an administrative role in delivering stocks into the Crest system.

So what are the likely consequences of Crest? Under Crest all share dealings will be "dematerialised". Put simply, much of the cumbersome movement of paper will be removed and it is expected that the majority of shares will be registered electronically. Those who wish to hold certificates may continue to do so, but if a holding is sold the stockbroker handling the sale must dematerialise the stock in order to deliver it electronically to the market through the Crest system, adding to costs.

Crest will operate typically through stockbrokers and banks, which will be members of Crest and may also provide a nominee service. The cost of this service will vary, but in many cases may be provided free of charge by stockbrokers. Share deals will be settled electronically, with title being confirmed by regular statements from the investor's Crest member, in much the same way as bank customers receive statements showing movements and closing balances in their bank accounts.

Many brokers will already be encouraging clients to use a nominee service as it resolves any problems relating to delivery and enables a smooth transition when Crest's new electronic dealing system starts



in July. But the radical changes that are taking place should force others to review their current arrangements. A key factor will be the cost of dealing. Investors can, at a price, continue holding on to share certificates; alternatively they may be able to deal more quickly and cheaply through Crest members. Further protection is provided by stockbrokers regulated by the Securities & Futures Authority.

Crest will have a large impact on investors and the financial services industry alike. It is a similar change to that which took place in the banking world with the demise of the pass-book. With the computerisation of settlement systems it will become increasingly difficult to deal using share certificates, so investors should review their options. There has never been a better time for investors to examine their position and consider how effective this will be in the future.

Fraser Gardiner is a director of Bell, Lawrie White.

## The Crest options to consider

### Designated nominee service

Investor has final say

#### Advantages:

- Investors can identify holdings
- Ability to dematerialise certificates and deliver stocks into Crest
- Dividends can be mandated to investor/bank or collected by nominee

#### Disadvantages:

- Stockbrokers regulated by the SFA
- No direct evidence of ownership
- Shares held by a third party - possible delay if changing advisers

### Un-designated Nominee Service

Investor has some say

#### Advantages:

- Nominee pools client holdings
- Ability to dematerialise certificates and deliver stocks into Crest
- Dividends collected by nominee
- Stockbrokers regulated by the SFA

## The Crest options to consider

### Disadvantages:

- No direct evidence of ownership
- Shares held by a third party - possible delay if changing advisers
- Dividends may be delayed

### Full Discretionary Service

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#### Advantages:

- Fund manager makes decisions within an agreed strategy
- Services: Nominee and custodial services, portfolio reviews, valuations, tax and dividend schedules

#### Disadvantages:

- Day to day decisions out of your hands
- Management costs
- Managed Portfolio Service

### Advantages:

- Pools investments in collective scheme run by fund manager

## The Crest options to consider

### Invests in investment trusts or unit trusts

- Services: Nominee and custodial services, portfolio reviews, valuations, tax and dividend schedules

### Regulated by the SFA

#### Disadvantages:

- Day to day investment decisions out of your hands
- Managerial costs incurred
- Shares Registered In Own Name

### Client has final say

#### Advantages:

- Evidence of ownership always available
- Flexibility in selecting brokers

#### Disadvantages:

- Delayed settlement and more expensive
- Poor dealing prices
- No supporting tax documents

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going out

CINEMA

**Toy Story** (above) The first completely computer-generated animation feature and the best modern fairy-tale since *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas*? Your kids will love it, but you'll love it more. Trainspotting Danny Boyle's kinetic take on Irvine Welsh's novel has the kick of good speed: it's a breathless whirlwind tour of Edinburgh's junkie underbelly. **Hearts** The leanest of plots - a cop (Al Pacino) hunts a hood (Robert De Niro), yet this is a mastery work which confirms Michael Mann's status as America's premiere auteur.

Ryan Gilbey

THEATRE

**Harry and Me** (above) Sheila Hancock stars in the latest comedy by Nigel Williams about the madness that is the TV chat show. James Macdonald directs. **Royal Court, SW1** Watch My Lips Nigel Charnock writes and directs a quartet of performers celebrating lust, desire and omnivorous sexuality. Bold stuff and definitely not for the prudish. **Drill Hall, W1** **Twelve Angry Men** Sidney Lumet turned this engrossing backstage courtroom drama into a gripping film. Harold Pinter returns it to the stage in this West End production. **Theatre Royal, Bristol**

David Benedict

EXHIBITIONS

**Symbols for 51** In 1951, painters, sculptors and designers were commissioned to produce pieces to characterise the brave new world. Here is work by Moore, Epstein, Chadwick and the Skyline. **Royal Festival Hall, SE1; to 21 Apr** **Spellbound** Six artists and four filmmakers were asked to examine the crossover between fine art and cinema - an inspired move in which works by Hirst, Rego, Paolozzi and Greenaway are most notable. **Hayward Gallery, London SE1; to 5 May** **Cézanne** (above) The final room, with the *Large Bathers* from Philadelphia, is one of the all-time epiphanies of gallery-going. **Tate, SW1; to 28 Apr**

Iain Gale

POP

**The Magnetic Fields** (above) Thoughtful pop with soft keyboard melodies. New album *Get Lost* is a winner. **Water Rats, London NW1; 23 Mar** **Cast** Liverpool's back to basics' favoured songs get sweetly with their jangly songs. The sentiment 'Walkaway' is more upbeat than their usual offerings. **Rocky, post-classic troupe Mansun** support. **Forum, London NW5 (0171-344 0044); tonight** **Lenny Kravitz** The garage with the wild dreadlocks, leather pants and raucous tunes is back to mangle a few more expensive guitars. **Wembley Arena (0181-900 1234); tonight**

CLASSICAL

**Chopin** (above) The Royal Ballet's new production of *Walse* is a gem. The music is by Chopin. **London SW1; to 28 Apr** **Chopin** The Royal Ballet's new production of *Walse* is a gem. The music is by Chopin. **London SW1; to 28 Apr**

DANCE

**The Royal Ballet** (above) The Royal Ballet's new production of *Walse* is a gem. The music is by Chopin. **London SW1; to 28 Apr**

Arts and entertainment listings

FILM

**WEST END**  
**APOLLO 13** (PG) The story of the 1969 Apollo 13 mission, which ended in disaster. **London SW1; to 28 Apr**  
**THE FUGITIVE** (PG) The story of the 1969 Apollo 13 mission, which ended in disaster. **London SW1; to 28 Apr**  
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Church services

**Passion Sunday**  
**St Paul's Church, London SW1** 10.30am. The Passion of Christ. Rev. Canon John Smith. **St Paul's Church, London SW1** 10.30am. The Passion of Christ. Rev. Canon John Smith.



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## iTV/Regions

[illegible]

**Perplexity**

**Misquotation:**

**Sure to frown in the wet conditions**

The above phrase is an anagram of – and a clue to – a well-known quotation. The number of letters in each word of the answer are 3, 2, 3, 6, 2, 3, 10.

A prize of the *Larousse Desk Reference Encyclopedia* will be awarded to the sender of the first correct answer opened on 4 April. Entries to: Saturday Pastimes, the *Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

**9 March answers:**

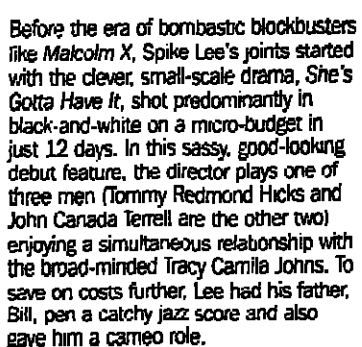
Champagne (rICHest AMong sPARKinG wINEs); Parties (PoliTiCAl OR tHeR dIquEs); feast (FiNE gASTronomy).

Winner: Mrs H Spencer.

After winning the lead, therefore, you have all the necessary clues. The winning line is to lead ♠Q at trick two! Clearly West takes his king but cannot lead trumps without losing his trick in the suit.

Suppose West tries a second club. Declarer wins, cashes ♠A, and ruffs a diamond with dummy's solitary trump. Now, after coming to hand with a heart ruff, South cashes his top trumps and simply concedes a diamond to collect his 10 tricks. You can see the point: it was vital to keep East out of the lead, for then a trump return would have put an end to declarer's chances.



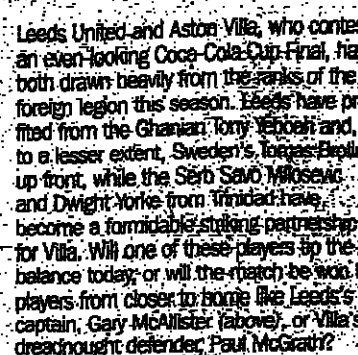


Bookmark Set 8.05pm BBC2  
Hamish Macbeth Sun 7.15pm BBC1  
Encounters: Mad Dogs and Englishwomen Sun 8pm C4  
Coronation Street - the Cruise Sun 8pm ITV  
Heart of the Matter Sun 10.55pm BBC1

The idea of screening this one-off seems to be to test the water for a fourth weekly *Coronation Street* episode, in an attempt to end BBC1's traditional dominance of early Sunday evening viewing. This times-

If – and stranger things have happened – anyone was to make a film out of the 1970s pulp fiction of the late Richard Allen, pseudonymous author of such football terrace classics as *Skinhead*, *Suedehead* and *Boister Girls*, and the subject of this week's Bookmark (SB BB02), then Robert Carlyle would surely be near the front of the casting director's thoughts. Some ageing "skins" in Ian MacMillan's film (touchingly still kitted out in bowler gear late into their thirties) are convinced that the author of such authentic fiction must have been one of them. In fact, he was a fiftysomething Irish-Canadian called Jim Moffat, living blamelessly on the

Still, rather synchronised? Ai-chi in a sweaty barn than a dose of rabies. The disease is a rather distant concept this side of Le Shuttle, but worldwide it yearly kills 100,000 people. Encumbers: *Mad Dogs and Englishmen* (Sun CA) follows the efforts of a British vet to prevent a rabies epidemic from sweeping Tanzania's Serengeti Wildlife Park. It looks a horrible way to die (be warned, there's footage of a boy in the throes), with victims contorting their bodies in violent spasms as they try to bite those around them. You'll never look at your pet labrador in quite the same way again.



## ITV/Regions

- As London escape:** 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (13830). 1.10 Film: *Herbie Rides Again* (88177762). 2.55 *see Ques* D.2 (15903853). 3.50 *Radio 4* (8715697). 5.20 *Batman* (10496563). 12.00 *Lie from the Lydienne* (4617057). 12.55pm *Pylars Pyrame* (5565938). 2.25pm *Funny Business* (2874502). 2.50pm *Film: Des Boat* (24910253). 5.00-5.30am *Wanted Dead or Alive* (55950).
- TIME 1235YOUSURE:**
- As London escape:** 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (13830). 1.10 *Survivors* (883036). 1.50 *Radio 4* (8715697). 5.20 *Wrestlemania* (77340323). 5.10 *Film: Full Time* (3462236). *Noris* (5742236). 5.20 *Batman* (1049656). 12.00 *Film: Spies: The Price of Passion* (200347). 1.40pm *Funny Business* (4657182). 2.10pm *Funny Pyram* (2851453). 3.35pm *Walt of the Walt* (88479). 4.25pm *Comic: John Miller* (9537413). 5.20-5.30pm *Profile* (8807873).
- CENTRAL:**
- As London escape:** 12.30pm *Heartland* (53330). 1.40 *The Munsters* (240125236). 2.05 *Walter Brothers* (30067472). 2.30 *Radio 4* (7915694). 3.20 *Alford* (672253). 4.15 *The Midas Touch* (484526). 5.10 *Central Match - Goals Edge* (3422236). 5.20 *Batman* (1049656). 4.35pm *Comic: John Miller* (9537413). 5.20-5.30pm *Asian Eye* (8807873).
- HTV:**
- As London escape:** 12.30pm *The Munsters* (24013830). 1.10 *West: House* (6172007). *Wales: Roadrunner* (13357156). 1.40 *Wales: A World of Wonder* (4212923). 1.45 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 2.05 *Wales: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 2.10 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 2.15 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 2.20 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 2.25 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 2.30 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 2.35 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 2.40 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 2.45 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 2.50 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 2.55 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 3.00 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 3.05 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 3.10 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 3.15 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 3.20 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 3.25 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 3.30 *West: A World of Wonder* (42129207). 3.35 *West: A World 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 The Lost Weekend (1945)  
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 thriller starring Clint Eastwood  
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 Nevada Smith (1966)  
 12.00 The Mummy  
 (1959) (4525/40).  
**1000**  
 Give Us a Clue (5307/007),  
 singing for Gold (711/0039),  
 Sullivan (3077/5588),  
 Tangerine (1478/476), 11.00  
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 1985/356), 5.00 The Death  
 at (27761/49), 5.35 Fall and  
 Geraldine Perti (1306/491),  
 Trade Dad (6225/472), 6.50  
 at Hot, Mum (1875/356),  
 Upright Connection  
 21. 7.55 Bread (664/1656),  
 22. 9.35 (986/5610), 9.35  
 73/558), 10.40 Danger  
 11.45 (195/323), 11.45  
 12.00 (657/769/4), 1.20  
 2 (234/887/3), 2.15-7.00am  
 at Night (1722/347),  
**2000**  
 World Sport Special  
 7.30 Racing News  
 8.00 Ice Warriors (748/59),  
 introduction to the Super  
 10.00 Schoolboy Football  
 Ireland v Scotland (288/97),  
 11.00 Saturday (627/43),  
 on Union, Pilkington Special  
 12. London Irish v Leicester  
 21. 5.30 World Sport Special  
 6.00 Opposite Lock (343/85),  
 7.00 (398/30), 10.00 Bushido  
 11.00 Rugby Union Update  
 12.00 Boxing (549/62),  
 1.00 Bushido (172/98),  
**3000**  
 12  
 Opposite Arm (501/0101),  
 11.00 (1747/43), 12.00 Golf  
 1.00 (48/66), 2.00 Saturday  
 3.00 (3290/439), 4.00 Ice War-  
 5.00 (616/8), 6.00 Skiff Sailing  
 7.00 (630) Inside the PGA Se-  
 8.00 (399/43), 9.00 Basketball  
 10.00 (1769/052), 9.00 Golf  
 11.00 (327/4491), 11.00  
 Opposite Lock (208/168),  
**4000**  
 11.00 The Fashion  
 12.00 Video Box 1 Sports The  
 1.00 Video Box 2 Sports The  
 2.00 Show 3.00 Showbiz  
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 12.00 Stand-Up 12.30 The  
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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased by 100 million. The number of people who are illiterate in the world is 1 billion. The number of people who are illiterate in the world is 1 billion.

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 30 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

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